

The Boston Red Sox Wednesday, September 18, 2019

*** *The Boston Globe***

It took 354 minutes and 24 pitchers before the Red Sox and Giants settled things

Alex Speier

It was an aesthetic atrocity in slow motion, a 354-minute exercise that seemed inescapable. Inning after inning, minute after minute, hour after hour, the Red Sox and Giants played on through the Boston night, two teams featuring woeful September offenses that could not deliver the single hit that would tilt the balance decisively.

And so it was that the bullpens churned in historic fashion. The Red Sox summoned 11 pitchers, while the Giants matched a major league record by employing 13 hurlers. The combined entry of 24 pitchers into the game likewise matched a big league record that had been achieved just once before, in a Rockies-Dodgers contest in 2015.

When it was over, finally, the Giants' 7-6, 15-inning win over the Red Sox represented mostly a blur with a few distinct flashes. The night will be remembered for the home run hit by Giants outfielder Mike Yastrzemski in his first ever big league game at the ballpark where he grew up and where his grandfather forged a legend. Yet that memorable blast came 11 innings and many hours before the game was decided in a fashion befitting the Red Sox' 2019 campaign – a season-long whimper with no bang.

“If you can [summarize] our season in six hours, [it was] right there honestly,” sighed Red Sox manager Alex Cora, who ticked off the shortcoming his team displayed: The absence of a hit with runners in scoring position; the poor start followed by an impressive rescue mission by the bullpen that proved just a bit too big of an ask; defense that was alternately sterling and then flawed. “It’s been like that the whole season. That’s how I felt.”

Yet while the game served as an emblem of the misshapen 2019 season to Cora, perhaps the bigger issue to emerge from the contest is whether the unresolved struggles of Nate Eovaldi now cast a shadow over the 2020 campaign.

For the second time in three weeks, Eovaldi lasted just four innings in a game that ultimately lasted 15 innings. Over 86 pitches, he allowed five runs on seven hits, including a pair of homers, while walking three and striking out six. In 10 starts this year, he has a 6.09 ERA; among the 171 pitchers who have made at least 10 starts this year, that mark ranks 151st.

It has been a significant disappointment for a pitcher who showed the stuff of an ace in 2018, when Eovaldi stood as the most dominant arm in October. In 2019, he has been plagued by both injuries and ineffectiveness, in a way that has led to jarring results.

Eovaldi still lights up the radar gun, unleashing comets that sometimes reach triple digits, while periodically snapping off curveballs and splitters that make hitters look foolish. At times he flashes the electric stuff that allowed him to dominate in the 2018 postseason and that convinced the Sox to sign him to a four-year, \$68 million extension.

But this year, Eovaldi's margin for error – particularly with his high-octane fastball – has proven extremely thin, with hitters blasting 2.6 homers per nine innings against him as a starter. Including the two homers he allowed on Tuesday to the Giants – one by Brandon Belt in the first inning, one by Yastrzemski in the fourth – he's allowed seven homers on fastballs, three more than he permitted in roughly twice as many

innings last season. His fastball has found the middle and lower third of the strike zone with greater frequency this season, with poor results following.

“We have to get him to pitch up in the zone again,” said Cora. “We live in an era that if you pitch [down in the zone on the plane of an uppercut swing], the guys are going to catch up regardless of whether you’re throwing 100 or 91.”

Yet the issues appear to be more far-reaching than fastball location. Eovaldi threw just five splitters and no sliders on Tuesday, and he missed the strike zone with 10 of his 13 cutters – essentially reducing him to a two-pitch hurler (fastball/curveball) rather than the five-pitch source of bewilderment of last year.

The 29-year-old insisted that he’s fine physically. But if so, his late-season performance raises questions about whether he will reemerge as a reliable mid-rotation starter in 2020 following this lost season.

“We’ll get it right, we’ll finish on a positive note, and he’ll be ready for the offseason to work on the things that he has to work,” said Cora. “He’s a guy that is very important for us in the coming years.”

This year, however, when Eovaldi – who missed three months due to surgery to remove bone chips and a biceps issue – has been in games, he’s been a non-factor in a literal sense. Somehow, he has recorded no-decisions in each of his 10 starts this year – the longest streak of starts without recording a decision in Red Sox history.

Outing after outing, his performances have become footnotes to the final outcome. That pattern held true in the marathon loss to the Giants.

After Eovaldi departed with the Sox trailing, 5-1, his teammates worked their way back. Jackie Bradley Jr.’s solo homer (his 19th) off San Francisco starter Logan Webb in the bottom of the fifth inning brought the Sox within three, and Boston tacked on three more runs in the sixth.

Sam Travis, batting for J.D. Martinez (who left with tightness in his right groin and is now day-to-day), led off the inning with a triple to right, though the three-bagger came at a terrifying cost. Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford unleashed a relay throw that clanked off the back of the head of Travis, whose helmet had flown off in his 270-foot sprint. Though Travis was able to get up, he left the game in favor of pinch-runner Gorkys Hernandez; Travis is now being monitored according to MLB’s concussion protocol.

Hernandez trotted across the plate on a Mitch Moreland double to left, and Christian Vazquez then drove in Moreland with a ground-rule double down the right-field line. Vazquez eventually scampered home and tied the game, 5-5, on a passed ball.

The game remained deadlocked, with both sides being held scoreless by the opposing bullpen through the 12th inning. When the Giants finally broke through with a run in the 13th, the Red Sox quickly answered with one of their own when Giants righty Kyle Barraclough issued a bases-loaded walk to pinch-hitter Juan Centeno in the bottom of the inning.

Finally, the Giants forged the decisive run in the 15th inning against the 11th Red Sox pitcher of the night, Trevor Kelley. Donovan Solano bloomed a ground-rule double down the right-field line, moved to third on a wild pitch, and scored on an Alex Dickerson sac fly. Dereck Rodriguez, who’d entered in the 14th inning, then delivered a second straight scoreless frame to close out the win.

The loss dropped the Sox to 79-71 on the season and a puzzling 36-38 at Fenway, one of many riddles that has kept Cora and his team vexed for the better part of six months.

Fenway trip also takes Mauricio Dubon back to his roots

Alex Speier

Mike Yastrzemski was far from alone in viewing the Giants' trip to Fenway Park as a landmark event. For San Francisco infielder Mauricio Dubon, the chance to play in Boston likewise represented the fulfillment of an improbable journey.

Dubon is a native of Honduras who moved to the United States in high school to pursue his dream of playing professional baseball. The Red Sox drafted him in the 26th round in 2013. He entered the system without any prospect profile, with his then-rookie ball manager, Darren Fenster, once noting that he was initially a backup infielder at the lowest rung of the minor league ladder.

But Dubon steadily emerged in the Red Sox system — not just as a skilled player, but also as a revered team leader. As a 20-year-old with Single A Greenville in 2015, he not only gained prospect steam but also served as a big brother/extension of the coaching staff with fellow infielders Yoan Moncada, Rafael Devers, and Michael Chavis.

“We lived together in Greenville and Salem,” said Devers. “I didn’t speak English in Greenville. He tried to make it comfortable for me.”

“He helped me a lot, without a doubt, and I know that same year he helped Moncada,” said Chavis. “As close as Devers and I are, I think part of that is because of Dubon being able to open us up . . . He played a really big role.”

Dubon emerged as a prospect on the field and helped many others off it. But in December 2016, in what will go down as the worst trade made by Dave Dombrowski in Boston, Dubon was dealt (along with Travis Shaw and two other minor leaguers) to the Brewers for Tyler Thornburg.

Dubon wasn’t surprised. He figured that with Xander Bogaerts (a close friend with whom he roomed in spring training) at short and Dustin Pedroia at second, his days with the Sox were numbered.

“[The Red Sox] did it for a reason. They thought the other guy was going to be a big help. I was watching posts from fans and everything saying how they felt about me. That felt good. That felt really good, letting me know that people cared,” said Dubon. “But I was expecting that [a trade] was going to happen at some point.

“When you get drafted, you think you’re going to be with your team for the rest of your life. That doesn’t happen. It was crazy at the time, but it is what it is. It’s a blessing.”

Dubon made his big league debut in July with the Brewers — thus becoming the first born-and-raised Honduran ever to reach the big leagues — before getting dealt to the Giants at the deadline for lefty Drew Pomeranz. Though he’d been to Fenway on occasion while a Red Sox minor leaguer, his visit to Boston as a big leaguer Tuesday represented a milestone.

“It was a lot better walking in here as a big leaguer than coming in ’14 with the Lowell Spinners,” he joked.

Yet the return also allowed Dubon to appreciate what it meant to play with several talented young Red Sox, and his time in Boston’s farm system.

“They won the World Series. It’s crazy the amount of stuff they accomplished,” Dubon said of his former teammates. “That they looked at me [as a leader] was really special. Now that I look back, it’s helped me get all the way here.”

Gigantic reunion

Beyond Yastrzemski and Dubon, several members of the Giants with Red Sox or New England ties relished the visit. Chris Shaw, who was in the lineup as a designated hitter, was a graduate of Lexington High and was taken in the first round of the 2015 draft out of Boston College.

“This is as excited as I’ve ever been. This is probably even a little more special than my debut,” said Shaw, who recalled the Red Sox’ pennant-clinching win over the Tigers in Game 6 of the 2013 ALCS as his favorite memory of Fenway as a spectator.

“When you’re in elementary school and you’re asked what you want to be when you grow up, probably 80 percent of my class said, ‘Play for the Red Sox.’ To be here, play at Fenway Park, be in the lineup, it’s just crazy for me, really.”

Righthander Tyler Beede, a 2011 graduate of the Lawrence Academy, is also on the Giants roster, as is righthander Shaun Anderson, a 2016 third-round pick by the Red Sox who was dealt to San Francisco in 2017 for Eduardo Nunez.

“It was cool to see that [Nunez] made an impact [during the 2018 World Series],” said Anderson.

“Hopefully I can make an impact for this team to make it a good trade.”

Former Sox lefty Javy Lopez, now a part of the Giants’ radio broadcast team, Worcester native J.P. Ricciardi, now a special adviser to Giants president of baseball operations Farhan Zaidi, and Roxbury Latin grad and former Red Sox minor leaguer Jack McGeary, now a baseball operations analyst for the Giants, were also on the trip.

Stay off his feet

Mookie Betts was out of the Red Sox lineup for a third straight game because of discomfort in his left foot. The leadoff hitter underwent an MRI on Monday that showed what he described as inflammation in the foot.

“Just gotta give it a little time to get out of there,” said Betts, who is hitting .293/.391/.527 with 28 homers for the year and .335/.404/.622 with 15 homers since the start of July. “I definitely want to get back out there and play. So when the timing is right, I’ll be back out there.”

Manager Alex Cora said that if Betts is available to play in the upcoming weekend series against the Rays, he would do so as a designated hitter rather than playing outfield on the Tropicana turf.

Dwindling days

David Price, who has made one start since Aug. 4 while dealing with a left wrist cyst, appears increasingly unlikely to pitch again this year. Cora said Price continues to experience discomfort when throwing his changeup and cutter. Surgery to remove the cyst is a possibility. “We’re running out of time,” Cora said regarding the idea of Price returning to games. “We’ll see what we’re going to do . . . Obviously everything that can benefit him will be great for the organization.” . . . Heath Hembree, on the injured list since Aug. 2, threw a bullpen session Tuesday. He is expected to throw a simulated game in the coming days, and if that goes well, the righthander could be activated for the series in Texas next week . . . Chavis took batting practice off a high-velocity pitching machine, his first time taking on-field batting practice since a late-August oblique strain. He could be activated as soon as this weekend in Tampa Bay.

Mike Yastrzemski, grandson of Red Sox legend Carl, homers at Fenway

Christopher Price

Mike Yastrzemski, the grandson of Carl Yastrzemski, received sizable cheers from the fans at Fenway before his first at-bat Tuesday evening, and the cheers were even bigger later as he homered to center against Nathan Eovaldi in the top of the fourth.

Wearing No. 5, Yastrzemski flashed a small smile at the start of the game, as fans stood and applauded before he stepped into the box against Eovaldi. Yastrzemski ended up striking out on three pitches.

In his third at-bat, he connected on a 3-1 pitch for a solo homer. It was the first time a Yastrzemski homered at Fenway Park since 1983.

Yastrzemski, a 29-year-old left fielder with the Giants, entered Tuesday's game hitting .265 with 19 homers and 51 RBI.

Prior to the game, Yastrzemski and his grandfather walked the field at Fenway and had a chance to speak with reporters about the experience.

"I need to take a step back and get lost in maybe one of the moments and let myself appreciate that and experience it," Mike Yastrzemski said of playing in the ballpark where his grandfather was revered.

In left field, Yastrzemski

Peter Abrham

As rookies often do before their first game at Fenway Park, the left fielder of the San Francisco Giants arrived early on Tuesday to take a walk around the place and appreciate its history.

Mike Yastrzemski was alone with his thoughts until another left fielder, his Hall of Fame grandfather, joined him on the field just before 2 p.m.

It was then that a largely meaningless September game between two third-place teams became one of the best moments of this baseball season.

Carl Yastrzemski is an 80-year-old man rigidly set in his ways, so much so that it usually takes a World Series game to get him back at Fenway. But the chance to stroll across the outfield grass with his grandson, well that was something not even he could pass up.

"It's finally come true for him," Carl said. "He worked hard and never complained ... He belongs here."

The fans recognized that, too. Mike hit leadoff for the Giants and received a prolonged cheer when he came to the plate in the first inning.

That he struck out really didn't matter, especially after the home run he drove into the center field bleachers in the fourth inning.

"I had to take a second and understand what was going on and appreciate that moment," said Yastrzemski, who finished 2 for 7 and also had a double in a game the Giants won, 7-6, in 15 innings. "I made sure to keep my head up and look around and soak it all in."

The first home run by a Yastrzemski at Fenway since July 31, 1983 was something you hoped would happen but didn't dare expect.

"Hard to script it any better than that," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

The crowd saluted Yastrzemski all night, even as the game went past midnight. It was deserved. The 29-year-old spent seven years in the minors with the Baltimore Orioles before being traded to the Giants in March and making his major league debut two months later after 703 games in the minors.

The rebuilding Giants have run through dozens of players this season, but Yastrzemski stuck. He has an .842 OPS over 97 games with 20 home runs and 52 RBIs. Mike's a well above average outfielder, too. Just like his grandfather.

“He saw this as a great opportunity and he ran with it,” Bochy said. “That’s what you want these guys to do when they get that chance. That door, when it opens, take full advantage of it.”

Carl Yastrzemski left before the game started. But Mike had his mother, Anne-Marie, at the game along with his wife, Paige, and a large group of aunts, uncles and cousins.

“Playing here is cool. I see it is part of my job and something I’ve always wanted to do,” he said. “That doesn’t really overwhelm me. But being able to do in a setting where I have so many fond memories with friends, family and then having them be able to be here is special.”

Yastrzemski grew up in Andover, a Red Sox fan rooting for Pedro Martinez and Nomar Garciaparra who often went to Fenway for games. He was born nearly seven years after his grandfather retired and knew his career only through old highlight videos and the stories passed down from others.

It wasn’t until later, when he started playing at St. John’s Prep and then Vanderbilt, that Mike could fully appreciate what his grandfather had done over the course of his career and the discipline that took.

“When I turned 23, that was kind of the big shocking moment,” he said. “For my entire life, he had showed up to Fenway Park every day. That kind of blew my mind. I can’t picture 23 years worth of major league baseball experience.”

For Carl Yastrzemski, seeing his grandson in uniform at Fenway was as meaningful to him as anything he did on the field, even his legendary Most Valuable Player season in 1967 when he carried the Red Sox to the World Series.

“The only way that I can compare it to anything would be if I compare it to the ’67 season. That’s what it means to me, him being here,” he said. “It’ll be the first time that ‘Yastrzemski’ will be announced on the field since ’83.”

Carl told Mike to take plenty of fly balls in batting practice to get used to the angles in left field at Fenway and playing the ball off the Green Monster.

It paid off in the 14th inning when he gloved a line drive off the wall, whirled and fired the ball into second base to hold Sandy Leon to a single.

Red Sox fans of a certain age can remember Carl doing that. If not, their parents or grandparents would be happy to fill them in.

Baseball is most sentimental of sports and you couldn’t brush the nostalgia away on this night even if you tried.

“This is cool for everybody, the fans here in Boston but for us, too,” Bochy said. “The beautiful thing about this game is that it does allow you to have moments like this. These are memories that will stay with me for a lifetime.”

*** *The Boston Herald***

Red Sox, David Price to talk about wrist surgery

Jason Mastrodonato

David Price was hoping a cortisone injection in early August would quickly heal his left wrist and provide a road to recovery before the 2019 season ended, but it’s not looking that way.

Price still hasn't been able to throw anything but fastballs while trying to recover from a cyst in the same wrist in which he dealt with carpal tunnel syndrome last year.

His season is likely over.

"Most likely we're going to get together again just to go over a few things and see where we're heading, but honestly, it feels like most likely we're going to shut him down," manager Alex Cora said. "But we have to go through the whole process and see how David feels about it."

With the Red Sox out of contention and just two weeks left in the season, team officials planned to talk to Price on Tuesday about potential surgery that would start the healing before the offseason.

"That's something we're going to talk about, if that's an option, if we need it," Cora said. "Obviously it has limited him as far as being able to compete, and I think it actually kind of limited him when he was pitching, what he was able to do. We saw it with command, and that's not him. He can get hit, that's part of it. But with command, he was way off. He didn't have that two-seamer in the whole season, and that's a pitch that throughout his career, he always aced it. That's ... a putaway pitch against right-handed hitters, and he didn't have it."

Price said in early August he was hoping the shot would "blow it up" and clear the cyst.

"But if not, it's something that we'd have cut out, and that wouldn't be a very long recovery process," Price said at the time.

Almost six weeks later, surgery could be the best option, though the Sox still need to discuss it with Price. Assistant general managers Eddie Romero and Brian O'Halloran planned to meet with trainer Brad Pearson and Price to discuss his options on Tuesday.

"This guy is too important to us to just throw him out there with just a fastball," Cora said. "We'll address it and see what the next step is with it."

If Price's season is done, the 34-year-old will have finished 7-5 with a 4.28 ERA in just 107½ innings. He has a 3.84 ERA in four seasons with the Red Sox, averaging just 147 innings per year.

Sale rehabs in Florida

The Red Sox have yet to learn much about Chris Sale's elbow injury since he received a platelet-rich plasma injection on Aug. 19.

"Chris is still in Fort Myers," Cora said. "We'll see him in Tampa when we go down there. ... He's making progress. He gets tested throughout and everything looks like he's doing better, but there's no rush here. We'll know after the season what the program is going to be." ...

Heath Hembree (elbow) threw a bullpen session Tuesday and could be activated for the final week of the season.

Betts has inflammation

An MRI with team doctors Monday revealed inflammation in Mookie Betts' left foot.

He was held out of the lineup again Tuesday but still hopes to play again this season.

"I think we have a good enough team that I don't have to play to go out and win," Betts said. "We've proven that. So I think health is the most important thing. ... It feels alright. I think I'll just give it a little time and hopefully it comes around."

Cora said Betts won't play the outfield on the turf against Tampa Bay this weekend and would only be used as the designated hitter, if he is capable of playing at all. ...

Michael Chavis (oblique) is taking batting practice again and might be ready to play this weekend.

J.D. Martinez left Tuesday's 7-6 loss to the Giants with left groin tightness and is unlikely to play Wednesday.

No excuses for bats

The Red Sox offense has been disappointing Cora with too many strikeouts in the past two weeks.

The evolution of the game has changed to favor an all-or-nothing approach at the plate, but that won't be an acceptable excuse for Cora.

"The game was the same last year, and we didn't strike out, so that's something we'll address in the offseason," Cora said. "We talked a lot about it in October last year. It was actually something that everybody was impressed with the way we put the ball in play with two strikes, the way we put the ball in play with men in scoring position, and the way we put the ball in play with men at third and less than two outs. This year we didn't do a good job."

Cora does his job

With Dave Dombrowski gone, Cora was asked if he'll have more of a say in decisions made in the front office.

"More of a say? I think my communication with Dave was outstanding and on a daily basis," Cora said. "He knew where I was standing, how I felt about the team, and obviously I knew where he was. I don't know how that's going to change, but like I told you guys before we left on that road trip, I'll be the same guy. Nothing is going to change me."

Mike Yastrzemski crushes Fenway Park debut, draws ovation

Tom Keegan

Magic September moments aren't always generated by teams in the home stretch of a pennant race. Some events transcend the standings, evoke generations of memories and promise to echo for generations to come.

Thirty-six years after Carl Yastrzemski played the final game of his 23-year Hall of Fame career with the Red Sox, his grandson Mike Yastrzemski, a 29-year-old rookie for the San Francisco Giants, earned a standing ovation during a home run trot as a visiting player in his Fenway Park debut.

Normally a right fielder, Yastrzemski played left field, a nod to history from Giants manager Bruce Bochy.

Five hours before the game, Carl visited with Mike in left field, where they did a TV interview with Peter Gammons, another Boston baseball institution. Then Carl headed home, so as not to deflect attention from his grandson.

Mike handled pregame interviews with the polish of a veteran, then had himself some night, going 2 for 7 with a walk, a double, his 20th home run and two runs scored. He also struck out three times.

The sounds he heard after crushing a Nathan Eovaldi fastball over the wall in center and into the bleachers made his night. It also made the night of everyone in the stands, even though the grandson of a Red Sox legend helped his team defeat the Sox, 7-6 in 15 innings.

Mike's fifth-inning home run gave the Giants a 5-1 lead they couldn't hold and it gave him a memory he'll never drop.

"I had to kind of take a step back and understand what was going on and appreciate that moment and not take it for granted," Mike Yaz said. "I made sure to keep my head up, look around and soak it all in. You don't really get an ovation at an opposing park for your home run."

You do when your name is Yastrzemski and you're playing at Fenway Park.

He wasn't done crushing the ball.

Mike Yaz smoked one to the triangle, the deepest part of the park, and had himself a ground-rule double when the ball hopped off the warning track and over the short fence in front of the Sox bullpen. Another ovation.

Why wasn't Yastrzemski wearing a white Red Sox jersey instead of a gray Giants jersey? Why didn't the 20th home run of his delayed major league career come for the Red Sox and not against them?

The Sox are woefully lacking in outfield depth and Yastrzemski, 29, was traded late in spring training from the Orioles to the Giants for a pitching non-prospect by the name of Tyler Herb.

The Red Sox could have had the graduate of St. John's Prep for a few signed Carl Yastrzemski baseballs and a career minor leaguer.

No complaints from the Red Sox legend's grandson, who's just happy to be performing in the big leagues and performing well since making his Giants debut May 25 at the age of 28.

"I grew up wanting to (play for the Red Sox)," Mike Yastrzemski, a graduate of Vanderbilt University, said. "But once you grow up and understand the industry of baseball a little bit more you become less of a fan of teams and more of a fan of the game. That's one of the things that's kept me going, being a fan of the game, so being able to experience the big leagues on any team is all I've ever looked for."

Doing it at Fenway and playing left field as his grandfather last did, Oct. 2, 1983, made it a big night. The home run proved that clutch genes can be inherited. Yaz the grandson had one opportunity to make his Fenway debut sizzle and he delivered.

"The crowd reactions all night were incredible," Yaz said. "I can't thank them enough for being supportive and just showing me some love when I'm on the opposing team. It's unheard of. It's really special."

Had he flourished for the Red Sox the way he has for the Giants, Yastrzemski would have given the team the fourth outfielder they lacked all season. Clearly, the Giants' scouting department saw something not available through statistical data in him that the Red Sox missed.

He didn't show the sort of power in the minors he has with the Giants, so a performance-based study wasn't going to lead the Sox in the direction of Yastrzemski. It would have taken peeling the onion a layer or two deeper to see the potential of a late-20s player still without a major league at bat. It would have taken a scout playing a hunch, if there is still room for such things in the data-driven Red Sox organization.

The Sox did draft him in 2009 out of St. John's Prep in the 36th round, but he stayed true to his word that he would attend Vanderbilt University unless taken in the first round. The Mariners drafted him in the 30th round after his junior season and offered him \$300,000, an unusually high bonus for a player picked that far into the draft. His desire to earn a degree from Vanderbilt outweighed his wish to get rich quick and he stayed in school for his senior season. The Orioles selected him in the 14th round and signed him, but gave up on him after six seasons in the minors, where he posted a career average of .263 and never hit more than 15 home runs in a season.

He started the year in Sacramento, where he said instructors helped him to make adjustments that have enabled him to make more solid contact.

Asked if he remembered what thoughts crossed his mind during his low-key home run trot, Yastrzemski said: “No, it was kind of blank. I didn’t really feel any super highs or lows throughout the game. I just felt like I was even-keeled. It was just special to hear that ovation.”

The fan who retrieved the home run ball gave it to a Giants official, who handed it to Yastrzemski after the game.

“You could tell that was a big one for him,” Bochy said of young Yaz’s demeanor upon his return to the dugout. “It was No. 20, but to hit it here, he was on Cloud 9. ... That’s quite the night for the kid. I couldn’t be happier for him, and really the year as a whole, getting called up and playing the type of ball he is, having a chance to come here to Boston and play left field where his grandfather did, and of course hits a home run his first game. That’s hard to script out any better than what happened tonight for him.”

And for the audience.

“It had to be a great night for a lot of Red Sox fans to see a Yastrzemski out there,” Bochy said. “I’m sure it reminded them of some great memories. It was pretty cool.”

So cool that Bochy, retiring at season’s end, won’t have any trouble remembering his 1,999th career victory. He’s one shy of becoming the 11th manager to join the 2,000 club. If it happens tonight, Carl Yastrzemski plans on being there to see it, along with a slew of family and friends. All eyes will be on Mike and that alone will be enough to make Carl’s night.

Nathan Eovaldi teases Red Sox with 100 mph fastball and poor results again

Jason Mastrodonato

With nothing left to play for but pride and some little victories, the Red Sox can’t seem to score one with Nathan Eovaldi.

It was the same old story on Tuesday night at Fenway Park.

Eovaldi sat at 97 mph and touched 100 mph with his fastball but got shelled in the process.

Two of his heaters were jacked for home runs, including one by Mike Yastrzemski in his Fenway Park debut, as Eovaldi gave up five runs to the Giants in the Red Sox’ eventual 7-6 loss in the 15th inning.

“My arm feels great and everything like that,” Eovaldi said. “I threw a lot of cutters today that just weren’t well located. They were all going off the plate.”

Eovaldi’s heater was too much for Yastrzemski in his first at-bat, when Carl Yastrzemski’s grandson was way behind a 98-mph fastball and struck out swinging to start the game.

But his fastball wasn’t fooling the next hitter, Brandon Belt, who cranked a middle-middle pitch at 99 mph over the Green Monster for an opposite-field shot and an early 1-0 lead.

The Giants continued the slaughter of Eovaldi’s heater the rest of the game, tagging him for three runs in the third, when his spotty command continued to be an issue.

“A lot of pitches in the middle of the zone and then a lot of walks,” manager Alex Cora said. “We live in an era that if you pitch on plane, the guys are going to catch up regardless of whether you’re throwing 100 or 91 mph.”

Yastrzemski got Eovaldi with a solo shot that went 401 feet over the wall in center field in the fourth inning.

Entering the game, hitters had a .318 average against Eovaldi's fastball since he returned from elbow surgery and biceps tendinitis. As has been the case this season, he looked tired as the game went on. The fastball Yastrzemski ripped over the fence was 96 mph.

It hasn't been a perfect scenario for the \$68-million man, who was rushed back from the injured list so the Red Sox could patch a hole in their bullpen in July. He never looked comfortable out of relief, and he's looked even worse in the rotation, with just two good starts out of six tries.

"This guy, with his stuff, we need him," Cora said. "We have to get him to pitch up in the zone again. He can get some swings and misses up there, some weak contact. From there, we can expand down with the breaking ball and the split. But I remember last year, there were some starts in August – against Baltimore, the White Sox, even the Braves, in that period of time, everything was down, down, down. When he's dominating, when he got here last year against the Twins, he was up. Against the Yankees, the eight innings, it was up in the zone. Against the Dodgers in the playoffs it was up in the zone. We have to do that."

In six starts since his return, Eovaldi has a 6.85 ERA while getting hit at a .279 clip with 27 strikeouts to 14 walks.

"I'll have a few good innings and then I'll have that one bad inning," Eovaldi said.

He didn't agree with Cora's assessment that he's not pitching up in the zone.

"I felt like I was throwing the ball up in the zone a lot today," he said. "I've just got to do a better job of mixing off of that. Off the high fastball and my splitter works well for that, and my curveball was good but I didn't have a perfect feel for it. I have to bounce it to really get it for strikeouts. The splitter, I feel like it comes off the fastball."

The triple-digits fastball doesn't do much when it's not well-located and the breaking ball isn't working along with it. The splitter has previously been a good pitch for him, but he's starting to look more like the pitcher Joe Kelly once was as a starter for the Red Sox, before Kelly had moments of brilliance out of the bullpen.

There's regular power and flashes of finesse from Eovaldi, but the results have been poor. And as the Red Sox wrestle with re-shaping their roster before 2020, they now risk ending the season on sour notes with all three of their big-money starters in Eovaldi, Chris Sale and David Price.

"We'll get it right, we'll finish on a positive note and he'll be ready for the offseason to work on the things that he has to work on," Cora said. "He's a guy that is very important for us in the coming years."

Red Sox, Giants use record-tying 24 pitchers in 15-inning game

Jason Mastrodonato

Both teams are well out of the playoff hunt, but neither manager was willing to give an inch.

Red Sox manager Alex Cora and Giants skipper Bruce Bochy went back and forth at each other for 15 innings on Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning, nearly emptying their roster-expanded bullpens in record-setting fashion.

The Giants eventually outlasted the Red Sox in a 7-6 win.

The two teams combined to use 24 pitchers, tying the MLB record for most pitchers used in a single game. The Giants used 13 pitchers, also tying a record for most pitchers used by a single team.

A total of 50 players were used in a game that lasted 5 hours, 54 minutes, the Sox' 11th-longest game in franchise history and longest since a 6-hour, 5-minute game against the Rays in 2017.

Afterwards, Cora wasn't pleased.

"If you can explain our season in six hours, it's right there, honestly," Cora said. "Close game. We didn't hit with men in scoring position. We didn't pitch well in the beginning but then we pitched well. We played good defense but then we didn't. Honestly if you want to put everything in six hours, it's right there.

"I was watching, I was like, long game, extra-inning games, using the bullpen knowing we have a bullpen day maybe tomorrow, it's been like that the whole season. That's how I felt."

After Nathan Eovaldi gave up five runs in four innings, the Red Sox bullpen held things together until the 13th inning, when Andrew Cashner gave up the go-ahead run on a double by Brandon Crawford. Andrew Benintendi misread the route as the ball sailed over his head, then Benintendi bobbled it before getting it to the infield. Xander Bogaerts made a bad relay throw home and the ugly play was costly, as Kevin Pillar scored all the way from first for a 6-5 lead.

But Bochy made a mistake when he insisted on making back-to-back pitching changes with the Red Sox threatening in the bottom of the inning.

The 20th pitcher of the game was lefty Wandy Peralta, who Bochy brought in to face Rafael Devers with the bases loaded and one out. But the ice-cold Devers struck out for the second out of the inning. He was 1-for-7 in the game and is hitting .163 without a home run or an RBI in his last 11 games.

One batter was all for Peralta, as the Giants then called on the 21st pitcher of the game, Kyle Barraclough, to get the platoon advantage against Gorkys Hernandez.

The Sox responded by pinch-hitting with their third-string catcher, Juan Centeno, to retake the platoon advantage.

With the game on the line, Barraclough walked Centeno on five pitches to force in the tying run.

Was Cora surprised that Bochy used four different pitchers in the 13th inning?

"No and I bet he was surprised that we pinch-hit," Cora said. "When you're competing, you're competing. You want to win every game possible. He's going to do what he has to do to win games and we're going to do what we have to do."

The Sox turned to Brian Johnson as pitcher No. 22 in the top of the 14th inning, then Trevor Kelley replaced him as pitcher No. 23 to get the final out of the frame.

The record-tying pitcher was Dereck Rodriguez in the bottom of the 14th. He pitched two innings and got the win.

Kelly gave up the clinching run in the 15th, as Donovan Solano scored on a fly ball from Alex Dickerson to end the marathon game.

"That's the beauty of this," Cora said. "Regardless of where you're at in the standings you have to compete. Their guys competed and we competed too. It just took a long time but that's how we're going to do it. We've been doing that for two years as a group and we're going to keep doing it."

The Red Sox fell to 79-71 and are 9-½ games back in the Wild Card standings with 12 games to play.

Mike Yastrzemski lives Possible Dream at Fenway Park

Tom Keegan

Based on what he did in the middle of his pro Fenway Park debut, Mike Yastrzemski appears to have inherited his grandfather's clutch gene.

Carl's grandson smoked a 96 mph fastball from Nathan Eovaldi over the fence in center field for his 20th home run to give the Giants a 5-1 lead over the Red Sox.

Yastrzemski struck out to lead off the game and walked and scored in the third. Something about walking into an empty ballpark quiets the mind and then fills it with images burned in the mind during youth. It was no different for the Giants rookie when he arrived at Fenway early Tuesday.

"I got to walk in here by myself when I got to the field and there were a lot of memories of being in the stands, being in the stands for the World Series, being in the stands for the '99 Home Run Derby, the All-Star Game, being with family at games," Yastrzemski the grandson said before playing left field and hitting his 20th home run for the Giants in the opener of a three-game series against the Red Sox. "Those things overwhelm you more than actually playing here. The playing here is cool. I see it as part of my job, something I've always wanted to do. So that doesn't overwhelm me. Being able to do it in a setting where I have so many fond memories with friends, family, and being able to do it here is special."

No telling how many people walk into an empty Fenway Park on an organized tour or through some other connection and instantly see in their minds Mike Yastrzemski's grandfather Carl deking a baserunner on a ball off the wall, or circling the bases with another home run, or making the crowd grow louder, louder, louder, then explode as he slides into third with a triple.

Mike Yastrzemski, educated at St. John's Prep and Vanderbilt University, understands now where those baseball fans are coming from, although he said it wasn't until he turned "15,16" that he "started to see the magnitude of the effect he's had on this city."

Carl turned 28 in the final weeks of his .326-44-121 Triple Crown season in 1967, the Impossible Dream season that Bob Gibson made sure fell a game short of breaking the curse.

At that point in his life, Mike was in his sixth season in the Orioles' system, still waiting for a call to the big leagues. That didn't come until the Giants, who traded for him late in spring training, needed an outfielder early this season. Mike made his debut May 25 and has played so well that the main question surrounding him is what took so long for someone to see he was up to the challenge of hitting big-league pitching?

Hours before first pitch, Mike and his grandfather visited at Fenway Park, where they did a joint TV interview standing in left field with Peter Gammons.

"People in Sacramento did a great job," Carl said of the Giants' Triple A affiliate, relaying what his grandson told him. "I didn't expect this power all at once, but they helped him out a lot and I know he's thankful to those people."

He thought back to when he joined the Red Sox in 1961, two years before winning his second of three batting titles.

"I think the whole thing is when you first come

*** *The Providence Journal***

Giants 7, Red Sox 6 (Final/15): San Francisco outlasts Boston in nearly six hours

Bill Koch

Midnight came and went more than a full hour before the series opener of Red Sox-Giants was finished at Fenway Park.

This certainly felt like some sort of baseball purgatory for two teams essentially playing out the string. Boston has only the faintest of playoff hopes while San Francisco has long since been dismissed from the National League's drive toward October.

That didn't stop both teams from battling all the way to the bitter end. The Giants eventually found a way to come out on top, squeezing their way to a 7-6 victory in 15 innings.

Donovan Solano sliced a ground-rule double down the line in right, took third on a wild pitch and scored on an Alex Dickerson sacrifice fly to deep center. Trevor Kelley took the loss for the Red Sox, allowing just the second earned run surrendered by their bullpen in 10 innings of work. It's the first time the Giants have scored a victory at this venue in interleague play.

"Regardless of where you're at in the standings, you have to compete," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "Their guys competed and we competed, too. It just took a long time."

Four different San Francisco relievers couldn't stop Boston from extending the game in the 13th. Marco Hernandez and Xander Bogaerts sandwiched singles around a walk to Andrew Benintendi, and Juan Centeno drew a bases-loaded walk to force in the tying run. Mookie Betts was the only position player remaining on the Red Sox bench, and he's been sidelined with left foot inflammation.

San Francisco's Dereck Rodriguez was summoned for the bottom of the 14th, tying a pair of Major League records. The right-hander was the game's 24th pitcher overall and the 13th used by the Giants. Rodriguez eventually wound up the winner as well, collecting the final six outs.

Kevin Pillar's single to right and Brandon Crawford's RBI double to deep left appeared to be enough in the 13th. Andrew Cashner was on the hook until Kyle Barraclough and a cast of others conspired to keep the night going.

The Red Sox scratched and clawed their way into a 5-5 tie in the sixth. Mitch Moreland's RBI double to the corner in left and Christian Vazquez's ground-rule RBI double to right made it a one-run game against San Francisco reliever Andrew Suarez. Vazquez stole third and scored when catcher Stephen Vogt boxed a low fastball by Suarez, a passed ball that knotted the game.

Jackie Bradley Jr. supplied all the Boston offense prior to the sixth. He sent a sharp RBI single to left in the bottom of the second, putting the Red Sox on the board. Bradley followed with a deep solo homer to right in the fifth, crashing his 19th of the season off the roof in the visiting bullpen.

Boston's bats took Nathan Eovaldi off the hook, as the right-hander left after just four innings on the wrong end of a 5-1 deficit. The Giants cracked two home runs and plated two of the three men who drew walks against Eovaldi. He managed just 48 strikes on 86 pitches, failing to record an out in the sixth inning for the ninth time in 10 starts this season.

"I'll have a few good innings, and then I'll have that one bad inning," Eovaldi said. "We were able to tie up the game and I walked the leadoff guy. The walks got me in trouble and they were able to capitalize on it."

Brandon Belt sent a solo shot to the Monster Seats in the top of the first, giving San Francisco a 1-0 lead. The Giants tacked on three more runs in the third when Mike Yastrzemski and Evan Longoria each drew walks and the next three men drove in a run. Vogt's double to right, Pillar's grounder to short and Crawford's single up the middle gave San Francisco a 4-1 lead.

“He’s on a regular program,” Cora said. “He’s been starting for a while now. I do feel there were a lot of hits down in the zone.”

Yastrzemski brought the 35,925 fans to their feet with one swing in the top of the fourth. The grandson of former Boston great Carl Yastrzemski jumped on a 3-and-1 fastball from Eovaldi and sent it 401 feet to the bleachers in center. It was his 20th home run of the season and the first by a member of his family here since Carl hit a two-run shot against the Brewers on July 31, 1983.

Eovaldi carried a 1.49 earned-run average over his last seven starts against National League foes, covering 36 1/3 innings. But facing the Giants couldn’t reverse what has been a disappointing season. Eovaldi’s ERA instead swelled to 6.19, and he likely has just two starts left.

“We’ll get it right and he’ll finish on a positive note and we’ll get ready for the offseason to work on the things he has to work on,” Cora said. “This is a guy who is very important for us in the upcoming years.”

Two Red Sox players left the game due to injury in the bottom of the sixth. Sam Travis batted in place of J.D. Martinez, who was removed due to left groin tightness and is unlikely to play Wednesday. Travis lined his first career triple down the line in right but exited after a scary moment on the relay. Travis popped off his helmet rounding second and the throw by Crawford appeared to strike him in the exposed back of the head.

Chris Sale will join the Red Sox on upcoming road trip

Bill Koch

Chris Sale (left elbow) will meet Boston’s traveling party during its upcoming four-game series with Tampa Bay. Heath Hembree (right elbow) and Michael Chavis (right oblique) could be on the verge of activation by the time the Red Sox finish the seven-game road trip in Texas.

Sale is at home in the Fort Myers area recovering from a platelet-rich plasma injection into the elbow. He’s been receiving treatment at JetBlue Park ahead of an October visit with Dr. James Andrews.

“He gets tested throughout and everything looks like it’s doing better,” Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. “There’s no rush here, but we will know after the season what the program is going to be.”

Hembree threw a bullpen Tuesday, bouncing back from some elbow soreness that had the Red Sox a bit concerned on Sunday in Philadelphia. His next step will be a simulated game that was originally scheduled for Tuesday and scratched

“Hopefully he’ll be active for the Texas series,” Cora said.

Chavis stayed behind on the most recent road trip and continued to work through side soreness. He took batting practice on the field Tuesday and appears close to his first game action since Aug. 11.

“He’s hitting off the machine,” Cora said. “He took BP in the cage. If everything goes well he might be active over the weekend.”

Red Sox leaning toward shutting down pitcher David Price

Bill Koch

David Price might have thrown his last competitive pitch of 2019.

Red Sox manager Alex Cora was set to meet Tuesday afternoon with two of the four Red Sox interim general managers, Eddie Romero and Brian O’Halloran, to discuss Price’s immediate future. The left-

hander has made just one start since being sent to the injured list with a left wrist cyst in early August. Price lasted two innings against the Angels in a 4-3 victory on Sept. 1.

“Honestly, it feels like most likely we’re going to shut him down,” Cora said following Tuesday’s 7-6, 15-inning loss to the Giants. “We have to go through the whole process and see how David feels about it and the medical staff. Most likely we’ll make a final decision (Wednesday).”

Price pitched to a 3.16 earned-run average through his first 17 starts of the season before unraveling. He staggered to a 10.59 ERA over his next four starts, including just 2 2/3 innings against the Yankees on Aug. 4. Price allowed all seven runs in a 7-4 loss and received a cortisone shot in the following days.

“The changeup and the cutter, they’re not there yet,” Cora said. “Obviously we’re running out of time.”

Price opted into the final four years of the seven-year contract he signed in free agency prior to the 2016 season. He’s on the Red Sox books for \$31 million per season through 2022.

“Like I’ve always said, this guy is too important for us to throw him out there just with a fastball,” Cora said. “We’ll address it and see what the next step is with it.”

Tuesday meeting could decide 2019 future for Red Sox pitcher David Price

Bill Koch

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Red Sox outfielder Mookie Betts (left foot inflammation) sidelined again

Bill Koch

First, the good news.

Mookie Betts has no structural damage in his left foot. Doctors ruled out anything worse than inflammation during a Monday exam that included an X-ray and an MRI.

Second, the bad news. The Red Sox right fielder was out of the lineup for the third straight game on Tuesday as Boston hosted the Giants.

“It feels alright,” Betts said. “I think we’ll just give it a little time and hopefully it comes around.”

Betts reported soreness following a three-game series against Toronto at Rogers Centre last week. He was scratched from the initial lineup prior to Saturday's game at Philadelphia and held out again on Sunday against the Phillies. Betts received treatment early Monday and has no timetable to return.

"I don't think it was one incident," Betts said. "I don't remember diving or falling or anything in particular. It's kind of weird how it happened, but it did."

Betts is within striking distance of two season marks any player would like to reach. He's batting .293 and has cracked 28 home runs, reaching base safely in 25 straight games while making a late-season charge. Betts has hit at least .300 and reached 30 home runs in two of his last three seasons.

"We'll go day by day," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "When he's ready, he'll play."

"When we go to Tampa most likely he'll DH down there. I'm not going to play him in the outfield because of the turf."

Boston entered the night 9 games behind the Rays for the second American League wild card spot. The Red Sox had just 13 games to play – they're all but mathematically eliminated from the race. Betts said he would have attempted to play through pain if circumstances were different.

"I'd have to play in a situation like that," Betts said. "Obviously we're not there, and we have the opportunity to play it a little safe."

Giants outfielder Mike Yastrzemski makes himself at home at Fenway Park

Bill Koch

Grandfather and grandson walked toward the Green Monster early Tuesday afternoon at Fenway Park, strolling through one of the most famous pieces of real estate in the city.

Carl Yastrzemski knows that particular patch of green grass as well as any man dead or alive. He played at least one game in left field for the Red Sox in 21 of his 23 seasons with the club, a Hall of Fame career that included a Triple Crown, a Most Valuable Player Award and 18 appearances with the American League in the All-Star Game. Yastrzemski's last time there in uniform under the sunshine came on the final afternoon of his career, that fabled Sunday in October 1983.

Mike Yastrzemski was the newcomer in the state where he grew up. The 29-year-old recalls being in the stands for World Series games and the All-Star Game festivities in 1999, a Boston fan to his core. This night promised a different viewpoint entirely.

The younger Yastrzemski batted leadoff and played left field for the Giants in his first professional game at this ballpark. His winding road back home included a college career at Vanderbilt and 703 games in the minor leagues, most of those spent marooned in the Orioles organization. It wasn't until a March trade from Baltimore to San Francisco for right-handed pitcher Tyler Herb where Yastrzemski found himself on the big league radar.

"I think through the long journey I've had to get here, I've started to understand which things are important and which aren't," Yastrzemski said. "I can keep focused on those things that have really grown to matter and the story that needs to unfold here."

Yastrzemski entered the left-handed batter's box to warm applause from the crowd on hand. He carried with him 19 home runs, 17 doubles and an .833 OPS through his first 96 games with the Giants. Yastrzemski made his debut with San Francisco on May 15 – his grandfather played his first game with Boston on April 11, 1961.

“He played 700-something games in the minors and always kept telling me he would make it some day,” Carl Yastrzemski said. “It’s finally come true for him.”

Mike Yastrzemski starred at St. John’s Prep (Mass.) and was drafted by the Red Sox in 2009 before honoring his commitment to the Commodores. It was early in his high school days where Yastrzemski said he finally came to realize just how much of an icon his grandfather is in Boston sports. The retired No. 8 hanging from the façade in right field gained some extra significance to a teenager who grew up cheering for Pedro Martinez, Nomar Garciaparra and Manny Ramirez.

“When I turned 23, that was kind of the big shocking moment – my entire life, he had showed up to Fenway Park every day,” Yastrzemski said. “That kind of blew my mind. I was like, ‘I can’t picture 23 years worth of the Major League Baseball experience.’”

Yastrzemski hit just 10 home runs across two levels with the Orioles last season, nine of those coming in 94 games with Triple-A Norfolk. He cracked 12 in just 40 games with Triple-A Sacramento and turned that blistering start into his first promotion to the big leagues. Only veteran outfielder Kevin Pillar’s 21 homers eclipsed Yastrzemski’s total with San Francisco to date in 2019.

“I think the manager (Dave Brundage) and the hitting coach (Damon Minor) at Sacramento did a great job with him,” Carl Yastrzemski said. “I know he’s very happy with them. I think that helped him out a lot.”

The story hinged on fairytale well before the top of the fourth inning Tuesday, and it crossed the threshold on one swing. Mike Yastrzemski took a 3-and-1 pitch from Nathan Eovaldi and drove it to deep center, a solo home run that gave the Giants a 5-1 lead. Yastrzemski enjoyed a slow trot around the bases and crossed the plate to a loud ovation.

“Throughout the history of this game there have been a lot of families, generations who have made an impact on the game,” Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. “A lot of people who saw Yaz playing here – some of you guys covered it. To see the kid playing out there in front of that wall is going to bring some memories and is going to take you to some special places.”

Mike Yastrzemski expected a host of family and friends in the stands Monday, including his mother, Anne-Marie. He handed off ticket purchase and distribution duties to a close cousin and attempted to focus on the upcoming series. Yastrzemski declined to guess how many personal fans in the stands he might have over these three special days.

“He did a great job organizing everything and making sure I wasn’t the one dealing with it,” Yastrzemski said. “I would have lost money on this trip for sure. Instead of being paid to play I would be paying to play.”

“I guess when you have the experience at home it’s worth it.”

*** *MassLive.com***

Yaz at Fenway: Mike Yastrzemski revels in his perfect Boston night ‘It was really special’

Matt Vautour

On an otherwise forgettable night to end a forgettable season, Mike Yastrzemski gave fans at Fenway Park a memorable moment spanning three generations.

A little after 7 p.m. just shy of 36 years since the last time his grandfather, Hall-of-Famer Carl Yastrzemski, played at Fenway Park, public address announcer Henry Mahegan told the old ballpark’s late-arriving crowd that a Yastrzemski was now batting and playing left field.

After that, the night would have been special regardless of what Mike Yastrzemski actually did on the field. He could have gone hitless and it wouldn't have mattered. The mere name on his back playing left field at Fenway Park brought both him and a large percentage of the crowd through a portal back to their youth.

For Mike Yastzemski, an Andover kid who grew up rooting for Nomar and Pedro and Trot Nixon etc., he got to play at Fenway Park in front of friends and family as a big leaguer. That's special no matter who your dad's dad is. After six years in the minors, it meant even more.

For the Boston fans, especially the older set that remembers 1967 and the way Yaz and the Impossible Dream Red Sox changed the culture of fandom in New England, it was a brief flashback to their own treasured memories.

But the baseball gods had something special in store early in the Giants' 7-6 win in 15-innings.

Carl Yastrzemski was at the park before the game and spent time with Mike, but planned to watch the game on TV at home, before returning to for the full game Wednesday. He missed out on a memorable moment.

After a strikeout in the first and a walk in the third, Mike Yastrzemski came up with two outs in the fourth. Nathan Eovaldi's four-seam fastball wasn't fast enough to get away with catching as much of the plate as it did on a 3-1 count. Yastrzemski got the barrel of his bat square on the ball and it took off.

The home run was almost perfectly straight sailing out to center field between the famous left field wall where his grandfather used to play and the right field facade where Yaz's retired No. 8 hangs for eternity.

"To be able to do that in front of friends and family was super special," Mike Yastrzemski said. "I'm just glad they got to make it for it."

Giants manager Bruce Bochy smiled recalling the moment, 11 innings after it happened.

"It was quite the night for the kid. I couldn't be happier for him," Bochy said. "Having a chance to come here to Boston and play left field where his grandfather did and hit a home run the first game, it's hard to script out any better than what happened tonight for him."

One of the unfortunate side effects of the Red Sox playing inconsequential baseball this September was that the park was still largely empty when Mike Yastrzemski stepped into the batter's box for the first time, denying him a louder reaction to his first at-bat. But those who were there gave him a warm welcome.

It looked like he might have a quiet night early. Mike Yastrzemski took the big hack everybody hoped he'd take at the first pitch he saw leading off the game, but he couldn't catch up to Nathan Eovaldi's 97-mile-per-hour fastball. He looked at strike two and after fouling off the third pitch, he struck out on another high hard one.

But he got better each time he faced Eovaldi. By his third plate appearance, he was ready and didn't waste the opportunity.

"I just had to take a second and understand what was going on, appreciate that moment and not take it for granted," Yastrzemski said of his home run trot. "I made sure to keep my head up, look around and soak it all in."

As he crossed the plate, much of the crowd was on it's feet."

"The crowd reactions all night were incredible," he said. "I can't thank them enough for being supportive and showing me some love when I'm on the opposing team. It's unheard of. It was really special."

Alex Cora says Red Sox's 15-inning, 5-hour, 54-minute loss to Giants is microcosm of 2019 season

Christopher Smith

Manager Alex Cora views the Red Sox's 7-6 loss to the Giants in 15 innings Tuesday as a microcosm of the 2019 season.

"If you can (sum up) our season in six hours, right there. Honestly," Cora said. "Close games. We didn't hit with men in scoring position. We didn't pitch well in the beginning, but then we pitched well. We played good defense but then we didn't. Honestly, if you want to put everything in six hours, it's right there. Long game. Extra-inning games. Using the bullpen knowing that we have a bullpen day maybe tomorrow. It's been like that the whole season."

The Red Sox went 4-for-15 with runners in scoring position and left 17 men on base during their 5-hour, 54-minute loss.

Starting pitcher Nathan Eovaldi allowed five runs, all earned, seven hits and three walks while striking out six in 4 innings. Boston's starter ERA increased to 4.92.

The bullpen pitched well after Eovaldi departed. Ten Red Sox relievers combined to give up just two runs in 11 innings.

It marked the longest game in a season of long games. It was the Red Sox's fourth game over 5 hours this season, their seventh game over 4 hours, 30 minutes, their 16th game over 4 hours and their 30th game over 3 hours, 40 minutes.

The Red Sox and Giants combined to use an MLB record-tying 24 pitchers.

Boston dropped to 79-71. The Sox's elimination number is three with 12 games remaining.

Boston Red Sox likely to shut David Price down for season with wrist issue

Chris Cutillo

The Red Sox are likely to shut starter David Price down for the rest of the season, manager Alex Cora said after Tuesday's game.

Price, who originally went on the injured list with a left wrist cyst Aug. 8, came off the injured list to pitch two innings against the Angels on Sept. 1 before suffering a setback in a bullpen session a couple days later. He hasn't pitched since due to tightness in his wrist area.

Cora and Price met with members of the front office and the team's medical staff to determine a course of action Tuesday afternoon. Though no final decision was made, the team is leaning toward ending Price's season.

"We talked. Most likely we're going to get together again just to go over a few things and see where we're headed. Honestly, it feels like we're going to shut him down," Cora said. "We have to go through the whole process and see how David feels about it and the medical staff. Most likely, we'll make a final decision tomorrow."

With the Red Sox almost officially eliminated from playoff contention, they likely feel the smart move is to shut Price down in hopes he can get a head start on his offseason program. A minor procedure to remove the cyst is possible but no decision has been made yet.

If Price is indeed done for the year, he will end his season with a 7-5 record and 4.28 ERA in 22 starts (107 1/3 innings). He has three years and \$96 million remaining on the 7-year deal he signed with the Sox before the 2016 season.

Boston Red Sox, Giants use MLB record-tying 24 pitchers in 15-inning game that San Francisco wins in 5 hours, 54 minutes

Christopher Smith

A combined 24 pitchers were used by the Giants and Red Sox on Tuesday, tying the major league record.

Trevor Kelley, the 11th pitcher Red Sox manager Alex Cora brought in, gave up Alex Dickerson's go-ahead sacrifice fly to center field in the 15th.

Dereck Rodriguez, the 13th pitcher who Giants manager Bruce Bochy used, tossed a scoreless 15th despite allowing two runners to reach.

San Francisco won 7-6 over the Red Sox here at Fenway Park.

It marked the Red Sox's fourth game over 5 hours this season, their seventh game over 4 hours, 30 minutes, their 16th over 4 hours and their 30th game over 3 hours, 40 minutes.

Yaz homers in first Fenway game

Carl Yastrzemski belted 237 home runs in 1,676 career games at Fenway Park from 1961-1983. His first homer at Fenway came in his sixth game played here May 15, 1961, vs. the Cleveland Indians.

It didn't take as long for his grandson.

Giants rookie Mike Yastrzemski homered in his first Fenway Park game and in his third at-bat. Yastrzemski blasted a 401-foot home run in the fourth inning off Red Sox starter Nathan Eovaldi to put the Giants ahead 5-1.

Eovaldi allowed five runs, all earned, seven hits and three walks while striking out six in 4 innings. Both Brandon Belt and Yastrzemski took him deep.

Red Sox, Giants both score in 13th

Brandon Crawford's RBI double in the 13th inning gave the Giants a 6-5 lead.

Giants manager Bruce Bochy used four different relievers in the bottom of the 13th but he couldn't stop the Red Sox from tying the game.

Marco Hernandez singled with one out against Giants' Sam Selman. Andrew Benintendi followed with a walk. Xander Bogaerts singled to right-center field off Burch Smith to load the bases.

Wandy Peralta struck out Rafael Devers swinging for the second out.

Bochy then brought in Kyle Barraclough with Gorkys Hernandez due. Cora used pinch hitter Juan Centeno who walked to force in the tying run.

Martinez, Travis exit early

Boston tied the game 5-5 with three runs in the sixth. Sam Travis led off with a triple. But he left the game after the relay throw to third base struck him in the back of the head as he dived into the bag. Travis' helmet had fallen off while he sprinted to third base.

Travis remained face down on the bag for a brief time before he walked off with manager Alex Cora and the trainer. Gorkys Hernandez pinch ran for him.

Travis was pinch hitting for designated hitter J.D. Martinez who left the game because of left groin tightness.

Yaz at Fenway: Mike Yastrzemski hopes to 'step back and get lost in one of the moments' at Fenway Park this week

Chris Cotillo

Mike Yastrzemski prides himself on staying focused and blocking out whatever is going on around him when he's on the field. But even the calm, collected Giants outfielder knows Tuesday night is unlike any other in his baseball career.

Yastrzemski, a 29-year-old rookie, is making his Fenway Park debut 36 years after his grandfather, Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski, last took the same field. The younger Yastrzemski is leading off and playing left field for San Francisco in the series opener against the Red Sox.

"I think tonight, I need to take a step back and maybe get lost in one of the moments," Yastrzemski said before the game. "Let myself appreciate that and experience that. Then we can get back to business and playing baseball."

Before his first inning at-bat against Red Sox righty Nathan Eovaldi, Yastrzemski stepped out of the box to soak in the moment. The Andover native received cheers from a half-filled Fenway Park crowd that he was once apart of.

"There are a lot of memories of being in the stands," Yastrzemski said. "Being in the stands for the World Series, being in the stands for the '99 Home Run Derby, the All-Star Game. Being with family at games. Those things overwhelmed me more than actually playing here. The playing here is cool and I see it as part of my job and something I've always wanted to do. That doesn't really overwhelm me but being in a setting where I have so many fond memories with friends and family and having them be able to be here is special."

Yastrzemski said he grew up a diehard Red Sox fan, coming to terms with his grandfather's legacy at some point during high school before being drafted out of St. John's Prep in 2009. He didn't sign then, opting to attend Vanderbilt for four years before being taken in the 14th round of the 2013 draft by Baltimore.

Six years later, he was dealt to the Giants in March and has played 96 games for San Francisco this season. As he tried to stick on the roster after being called up in late May, he saw the late September Fenway series off in the distance. A moment he had been waiting forever for was inching closer.

"For life," he said when asked how long he's had this date circled on his calendar. "It's always a dream here when you're a kid growing up in New England. I kept it very focused on just surviving one more day in the big leagues. There has been a lot of turnover on our team and I knew they were looking for production. To get to Boston, I had to play well."

Yastrzemski did play well, hitting .265 with 15 homers and 91 RBIs while carving out a niche as a frequent contributor. He has kept in touch with his famous grandpa, calling him every couple weeks as the 80-year-old watched all of his games on TV.

"He has helped me a lot through the way, helping me understand what I need to do and what I don't need to do to be successful," Yastrzemski said.

The Yastrzemskis met on the field before the game, filming an MLB Network interview in left field. Carl is watching the series opener from home but plans to be at the park in a luxury box with some other family members Wednesday night.

His grandson will be on the field, wearing the same name in the same spot as one of the best players in Red Sox history. It's not something he'll take for granted.

"I'll take my time and say, this is special," Mike Yastrzemski said. "It's not just special for me, but for everyone who had ever seen my grandfather play and has been a Red Sox fan over history. They have some tie to him because of his historic value to the organization. While it is special for me, I need to let it be special for everyone else as well."

*** *The Worcester Telegram & Gazette***

San Francisco Giants pitcher Tyler Beede of Auburn relishes return to Fenway Park

Rich Garven

Tyler Beede found himself at Fenway Park on Tuesday for the first time in five years to the month, when he and some buddies scored seats behind the visitors' dugout for a Red Sox-Blue Jays game.

This time the former Auburn High standout was seated in the visitors' dugout as he and the rest of the San Francisco Giants opened a three-game series against the Red Sox.

"This is like a full circle moment for me," Beede, 26, said while leaning against a railing along the third-base line.

The rookie pitcher was expecting some 200 family and friends to attend each of the three games and admitted "it'll be cool" to look into the stands and see so many familiar faces. His mom, Cheryl Rivers, who still calls Auburn home, and dad, Walter Beede, who now resides in Peabody, were going to be among those proudly looking back.

Beede was originally scheduled to face the Red Sox, but with the Giants off Monday, he was bumped so ace Madison Bumgarner could remain on his regular rotation.

Instead, the 6-foot-3, 211-pound right-hander will start Friday against the Braves in Atlanta.

"It's OK," Beede said. "I think it's maybe an opportunity for me to relax and take it in more than I would have. I can sort of be a spectator and enjoy the days we have here in Boston as opposed to worrying about pitching and going out there and facing the Sox."

It's been quite the baseball journey for Beede since he signed with the Giants, who drafted him 14th overall, not long after helping Vanderbilt University win the College World Series as a junior in 2014.

There was a four-year trip through the minors filled with ups and downs, steps forward and back during stops in Arizona, Oregon, California, Virginia, and back to California.

He started last season with the Giants, but pitched in just two games before being returned to the minors, where injury and ineffectiveness proved problematic.

"It's hard to put into a few sentences, but it's the journey I needed more than the journey I wanted," the affable Beede said. "It's been a path I never expected, but it's made me the person I am today because of the failures and adversities I've gone through."

Beede broke spring training with the Giants in late March and has remained with them the entire season. He's appeared in 22 games, making 20 starts, and posting a record of 5-9 with a 5.02 ERA.

A rough stretch beginning in August saw Beede go 0-4 while allowing 21 earned runs in 24-1/3 innings over six starts. He's turned it around since then, winning his last two starts after not surrendering an earned run in 11-1/3 innings.

It's all part of learning on the job and Beede has maintained an optimistic outlook through the early departures and quality starts.

"You have to have a growth mindset when you're playing in the big leagues because it's a game of failure," Beede said. "It's a game where you're going to get tested, you're going to have to persevere through some tough times and some tough stretches.

"But the ability for a starting pitcher to be a consistent option out there for a team to rely on is huge. And I think I've learned how to be more consistent and how to make my bad outings not as bad where I can go out and keep the team in a position to win."

Beede and his wife, Allie, have been married for nearly two years now and reside in her hometown of Houston, as does his older brother, Tyler. He frequently gets back to Central Mass. for holidays and weddings and such.

While Beede transferred to Lawrence Academy for his final two years of high school, he relishes his time at hometown Auburn High, where he played football and baseball for the Rockets.

Especially teaming with the likes of Evan Pluff, Nick Natoli, Jeff Croteau, Chris Halliday and his brother to go 24-2 and win the Division 2 state baseball championship as a sophomore in 2009.

"Life moves on, but those are the kind of moments where you feel like you can turn back the page and be right where you were that day, 2009 and playing in Lowell," Beede said. "I'll tell you what, those were great memories and ones we'll never forget."

*** *The Lawrence Eagle Tribune***

Five Takes: Red Sox and Giants execute perfect argument against roster expansion

Chris Mason

If you're wondering why expanded September rosters are going the way of the dodo, look no further than Tuesday night's marathon — errr, Wednesday morning's marathon at Fenway Park.

The Red Sox and Giants tied an MLB record with 24 pitchers used, and Alex Cora's club fell, 7-6, in a 15-inning loss that lasted 5:54. Yes, five hours and fifty four minutes.

Here are five takes from a game that most didn't stay up for:

1. Just a terrible product

The only thing that outnumbered pitchers was yawns.

Bruce Bochy made three pitching changes with a 6-5 lead in the 13th and it completely backfired, as his fourth pitcher of the inning walked Juan Centeno (yes, that Juan Centeno) to plate the tying run.

By the time the game wrapped at 1:07 AM, the stands were as packed as your local Blockbuster video store. A meaningless game between two going-nowhere teams has no business being that dragged out.

2. Yaz goes yard

Back in the early innings — before the rise of the September call-ups — there was some excitement.

For the first time in 36 years, a Yastrzemski broke into a home run trot at Fenway Park.

Andover's Mike Yastrzemski — grandson to Hall of Famer Carl — hit a bomb to dead center in his hometown debut. The fourth-inning homer off Nathan Eovaldi went in the books as No. 20 of Yastrzemski's impressive rookie season.

Only 236 more Fenway homers to catch his grandpa.

3. Nothing doing with Nate

On the other side of that home run ball, Eovaldi had another underwhelming evening.

Finally stretched all the way out, the flamethrower only gave the Red Sox four innings. Poor performance was the culprit this time, as he was tagged for five earned runs on seven hits and he walked three.

The Giants had plenty of traffic in every inning, and though Eovaldi's stuff is nasty, it's fair to wonder what kind of starter he will be.

4. Awful evening for Benintendi

Leading off in place of the injured Mookie Betts, Andrew Benintendi's evening couldn't have gone much worse.

The left fielder went 0 for 7, leaving six men on base, and made a crucial misplay in left field that allowed the Giants to take their 13th inning lead. It was a burn-the-tape evening in a forgettable season for Benintendi.

5. Scary moment for Sam

Sam Travis had sixth-inning play that'd be a first ballot lock in the Awful Luck Hall of Fame.

The first baseman hit a triple into the right field corner, his helmet fell off as he rounded second, and the relay throw hit him squarely in the back of the head as he slid into third.

Travis went face down on the bag for a few seconds, it looked like he might have been knocked out cold, but ultimately was able to walk off under his own power.

Travis was in the game because J.D. Martinez left with groin tightness.

Martinez joins Betts, Chris Sale, and David Price on a list of ailing players that is increasingly star studded.

Mike Yastrzemski brings a whole lot of joy to Fenway Park

Chris Mason

At its core, baseball is supposed to be cause for celebration.

It was easy to be reminded of that at Fenway Park last night. After seven years of grinding through the minors, Mike Yastrzemski arrived at the ballpark his grandfather, Hall-of-Famer Carl, helped pack with fans for 23 seasons.

Yastrzemski has undoubtedly been one of baseball's best stories this season. Fueled by a work ethic that may as well be genetic, the St. John's Prep alum finally cracked the majors at 28 years old, and simply played too well to get sent back down.

He arrived at Fenway a San Francisco Giant, determined to relish returning to the place he made so many pilgrimages to as a kid.

“I got to walk in here by myself,” Yastrzemski said. “When I got to the field, there was a lot of memory of being in the stands. Being in the stands for the World Series. Being in the stands for the ‘99 Home Run Derby, the All-Star Game. Being with family at games.

“Those things overwhelm me more than actually playing here,” he continued. “Being able to do it in a setting with so many fond memories with friends, family. And then having them be here, it’s special.”

In his final road trip as a manager, Bruce Bochy wasn’t going to let a moment like this go to waste.

The name atop his lineup card read, “Yastrzemski,” and the leadoff hitter would be patrolling left field, just as his grandpa always had.

“He gets the nod there,” Bochy said. “It’ll be a cool moment. I’m sure for a lot of people here it’s going to be a great reminder of all the great things that his grandfather did. Bring some really special memories into their mind. So I look forward to it.

“This is cool for everybody. The fans here in Boston, but for us too.”

There were plenty of friends and family in the stands last night, but hours before first pitch, the original “Yaz” and his grandson strode across the outfield grass, soaking in the early afternoon sun. His advice was simple: Just be yourself.

When professional athletes know a moment will be emotional, many resort to cliché as a crutch. There was none of that with the younger Yastrzemski.

He busted his tail to get to Fenway and he was going to soak it all in — not just for himself, but for so many fans his grandfather made, too.

“I’ve trained my whole life to block out situations and crowd noise,” Yastrzemski said. “But I think tonight I need to take a step back and maybe get lost in one of the moments. Let myself appreciate that and experience it... I understand that it’s a once in a lifetime kind of thing.

“It’s not just special for me. It’s for everyone who had ever seen my grandfather play and been a Red Sox fan over history. They have some sort of tie to them because of his historic value to the organization. So while I think it is special for me, I need to let it be special for everybody else as well.”

Bochy is a card-carrying Carl Yastrzemski fan, too.

Given a chance to steal some time with the 80-year-old before the game, he pulled the legend into his office and picked his brain for a bit.

“I’m with a Hall of Famer that I grew up trying to impersonate as a hitter, as a kid, and here he was in my office,” Bochy mused. “So that’s a cool moment. I’m like anybody that grew up idolizing these guys when you get a chance to meet them. I enjoyed it. The beautiful thing about this game is that it does allow you to have moments like this. These are memories that will stay with me for a lifetime.”

There were plenty of those made at Fenway last night.

The original “Yaz” might as well have a doctorate in weird Green Monster bounces, and told his grandson the only way to learn them was by fielding live shots, so the outfielder jogged out to get a crash course during batting practice.

When the game began and “Yastrzemski,” was announced over the PA, the home crowd erupted as if he was one of their own.

Then in the fourth inning, he went deep at Fenway Park, something his grandfather did 237 times. You couldn’t script it any better.

In the visitors’ dugout before the game, Yastrzemski was asked how long this September trip to Fenway Park had been on his radar.

“For life,” he replied. “It’s always a dream to play here when you’re growing up in New England. But I kept it very focused on just surviving one more day in the big leagues, because there had been a lot of turnover on our team and I knew that they were looking for production. So in order to make it to Boston I had to play well. So I never really kept focused on it.

“I got some questions and I said, ‘I’ve gotta make it to Boston before we talk about it.’ So now I guess I can talk about it... it’s the best.”

*** *RedSox.com***

After Yaz reunion, Mike homers in Fenway debut

Jessica Camerato

Mike Yastrzemski stepped up to the plate at Fenway Park where his grandfather, Carl, had belted 237 homers over his 23-year historic career.

Amid the loud ovations in the stands, a fan repeatedly yelled out to the Giants’ leadoff batter, “Hit a home run! Hit a home run!”

Three innings later, Mike did just that.

The 29-year-old rookie’s 20th home run of the season sailed 401 feet over the center-field wall, according to Statcast, off Boston starter Nathan Eovaldi. The crowd reacted not as if the home run had been hit by the opponent, but rather by family. Red Sox history family.

“That was kind of one of those things where I just had to take a second and understand what was going on and appreciate that moment and not take it for granted,” Mike said after the Giants’ 7-6, 15-inning win over the Red Sox. “I made sure to kind of keep my head up and look around and soak it all in because you don’t really get an ovation at an away or opposing park for your home run.”

Before the game, the grandfather and grandson reunited on the field, an image that transcends generations.

Fenway Park was home for Carl, who played his entire career for the Red Sox, and a homecoming for Mike, who grew up in the Boston area. At that time, neither knew Mike would be making his mark in the stadium 36 years, one month and 17 days after Carl hit his last home run there on July 31, 1983.

“I think the only way that I can compare it to anything would be if I compared it to the ‘67 season,” Carl said of Mike playing at Fenway before the game. “That’s what it means to me and being here. It’ll be the first time that ‘Yastrzemski’ will be announced on the field since ‘83.”

Their last name resonated over the loudspeaker from 1961-83. During that time, Carl captured the American League Most Valuable Player Award and Triple Crown for that memorable ‘67 season, seven Gold Glove Awards and 18 All-Star selections.

“When I turned 23, kind of the big shocking moment was that for my entire life, he had showed up to Fenway Park every day,” said Mike, who went 2-for-7 with a double, a home run, three strikeouts and a walk on the night. “That kind of blew my mind, where I was like, ‘I can’t picture 23 years’ worth of Major League Baseball experience.’ That’s when that really set in. But I was probably in high school when I started to see the magnitude of his effect on the city.”

On Tuesday in the series opener, the name was heard once again when Mike got the start in left field -- where Carl played, too.

“It had to be a great night for a lot of Red Sox fans to see a Yastrzemski out there,” Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. “I’m sure it reminded them of some of the great memories they have. It was pretty cool.”

Even the opponents recognized the significance of the moment. Eovaldi heard the loud ovation for Yastrzemski’s home run from the pitcher’s mound.

"He had a good eye at the plate. I fell behind on that 3-1 count, and he was able to drive the ball out of the park," Eovaldi said, adding, "You see our fans, too. They gave him a really good welcoming and everything to come here, and it’s cool. A cool experience for him.”

Batting leadoff and starting at Fenway Park was not given to Mike because of his family. He’s had to work to get to this point on his own. The 29-year-old logged 703 Minor League games before making his Major League debut on May 25. Mike, Carl said, “never complained.”

“I think the whole thing is when you first come to the big leagues, it’s very difficult,” Carl said. “I knew it was for me because always in the back of my mind was the thought that, ‘Do I belong here?’ I think that goes on for a few months until you kind of get settled and say, ‘Yes I do belong here.’ He’s adjusted pretty well to it.”

Since being traded to the Giants from the Orioles in March, Mike has embraced the opportunity. Carl remembers receiving a phone call from his grandson four days after joining his new organization and sensing it would be a good fit. Mike became the first Giants rookie to belt 20-plus home runs since Dave Kingman did it in 1972. He is batting .266 on the season with 89 hits and 52 RBIs.

“You could tell that was a big one for him,” Bochy said. “It was No. 20, but to hit it here, he was on Cloud Nine there.”

Yastrzemski nearly sent another home run to the same location in the 14th inning, but his 408-foot ground-rule double off Brian Johnson fell just short of leaving the park. He stumbled awkwardly getting out of the box after the swing, but stayed in the game after being attended to by Giants staff once he reached second base.

“I’m good,” Mike said. “I just kind of jammed my ankle a little bit, so I’m alright.”

Mike has had his grandfather to turn to during this long journey. Carl watches Mike’s games on the West Coast, even if it means staying up far past midnight.

“He’s helped me a lot through the way in helping me understand what I need to do and what I don’t need to do to be successful and how I can kind of maintain that,” Mike said.

Mike wasn’t the only member of the visiting team that Carl spent time with on Tuesday. Carl visited the clubhouse before the game and dropped into Bochy’s office.

“A Hall of Famer that I grew up trying to impersonate as a hitter, as a kid, and there he was in my office,” Bochy said. “That’s a cool moment. To get a chance to meet him, I’m like anybody that grew up idolizing these guys. ... The beautiful thing about this game is, it does allow you to have moments like this.”

This moment wasn't just for Mike -- it was for all of his friends and family who came to Fenway Park to see him play there for the first time. There were so many supporters on hand, he lost count. The self-described diehard Red Sox fan said his first game at Fenway Park had been circled on his calendar "for life."

"I got to walk in here by myself when I got to the field," he said. "There was a lot of memories of being in the stands. Being in the stands for the World Series, being in the stands for the '99 Home Run Derby, the All-Star Game, being with family at games. Those things overwhelm you more than actually playing here. The playing here is cool and I see it as part of my job, something I've always wanted to do. So that doesn't really overwhelm me. But being able to do it in a setting where I have so many fond memories with friends, family, and then having them be able to be here is special."

On Tuesday night, and into Wednesday morning, those at Fenway Park experienced the special moment, too.

"The crowd reactions all night were incredible," Mike said. "I can't thank them enough for being supportive and showing me some love when I'm on the opposing team. It's unheard of, and it was really special."

Eovaldi's performance lacking in 15-inning loss

Ian Browne

Long before the comeback and then the early-morning letdown, another recurring theme developed for the Red Sox, and it's not a good one.

Nathan Eovaldi again couldn't settle into a groove.

The hard-throwing righty was touched up for seven hits and five runs over four innings against the Giants, walking three and striking out six. Boston wound up losing the game, 7-6, in 15 innings at Fenway Park.

In six starts since moving back to the rotation, Eovaldi has a 6.85 ERA. Somehow, he hasn't earned a decision in any of those starts. With Eovaldi signed for another three seasons, his drop-off in performance is cause for concern.

The Eovaldi who dazzled for the Red Sox in the rotation and bullpen last October hasn't appeared very often this season.

"A lot of pitches in the middle of the zone and then a lot of walks," said Red Sox manager Alex Cora. "There were a few hits in on 1-2 pitches down in the zone. The split wasn't great. It's one that he has two more starts and the hope is for him to keep getting better and finish on a positive note going into the offseason."

Eovaldi, who had elbow surgery in April and then biceps tendinitis that delayed his return until July, is adamant there are no physical issues. But he is caught in between with his pitch selection and isn't locating well.

"Physically I felt fine. My fastball felt like it was coming out really well. I've got to use more splitters," Eovaldi said. "I felt like I threw the curveball well. The cutter was a little inconsistent. I wasn't throwing too many for strikes but they were just able to make the hits fall in."

The way Cora looks at it, Eovaldi's biggest issue is not using the upper portion of the strike zone to put hitters away like he did down the stretch last season.

“Last year we talked about it: This guy, with his stuff, we need him,” said Cora. “We have to get him to pitch up in the zone again. He can get some swings and misses up there, some weak contact. From there, we can expand down with the breaking ball and the split.”

The final run Eovaldi allowed on Tuesday night at Fenway Park was a dramatic one -- struck by Mike Yastrzemski, who was playing his first game at Fenway Park, where his grandfather Carl was a legend during a 23-year career.

Cora: Loss symbolized season

To Cora, the frustrating defeat and the highs and lows of a game that took five hours and 54 minutes perfectly encapsulated his team’s inconsistent season.

“If you can [sum up] our season in six hours, it was right there, honestly,” Cora said. “Close games, we didn’t hit with men in scoring position. We didn’t pitch well in the beginning but then we pitched well [later]. We played good defense but then we didn’t.

“Long game, extra-inning games, using the bullpen knowing we have a bullpen day maybe tomorrow, it’s been like that the whole season. That’s how I felt.”

The Red Sox and Giants combined to use 24 pitchers, tying an MLB record for a single game, and Boston left 17 runners on base.

With 12 games left, the Sox trail the Rays by nine games for the second Wild Card spot. Their magic number for getting eliminated is now three.

J.D., Travis leave game with injuries

Ian Browne

Already without Mookie Betts (left foot inflammation), the Red Sox lost another star hitter in Tuesday's 7-6, 15-inning loss to the Giants when DH J.D. Martinez exited with tightness in his left groin in the bottom of the sixth inning.

And the man who pinch-hit for Martinez -- infielder Sam Travis -- didn't stay in the game for long.

Travis sliced a triple down the line in right that went off the glove of Giants right fielder Austin Slater. The relay throw to third by shortstop Brandon Crawford hit Travis in the side of the head.

Clearly shaken up, Travis was taken out of the game.

"Sam is OK. He's just going through the concussion protocol," manager Alex Cora said of Travis' status after the game. "J.D., just tightness in his left groin. We'll see how he feels tomorrow. Most likely we'll stay away from him."

Price likely to be shut down, surgery possible

Ian Browne

With the Red Sox nearing official elimination from the postseason race, they won't take any chances with key players who are nursing injuries.

This means that David Price might not pitch again this season, though those discussions are ongoing. It also means that Mookie Betts won't step back onto the field until the inflammation in his left foot has completely cleared out.

While the injury to Betts is short term -- and likely suffered from playing on the turf in Toronto last week -- Price has pitched just two innings for the Red Sox since Aug. 4 due to a cyst on his left wrist that has been slow to go away.

"The changeup and the cutter, they're not there yet," said Red Sox manager Alex Cora. "Obviously we're running out of time ... Like I always said, this guy is too important to us to just throw him out there just with a fastball. We'll address it and see what the next step is with it."

After Boston's 7-6, 15-inning loss to the Giants, Cora updated reporters on the ongoing discussions around Price.

"We talked. Most likely we're going to get together again just to go over a few things and see where we're heading, but honestly, it feels like most likely we're going to shut him down, but we have to go through the whole process and see how David feels about it and obviously the medical staff. Most likely we'll make a final decision tomorrow," he said of the decision.

There is a possibility that Price will undergo surgery on his pitching hand in the offseason.

"That's something we're going to talk about. If that's an option, if we need it," said Cora. "Obviously it has limited him as far as [being] able to compete and I think it actually kind of like limited him when he was pitching, what he was able to do."

How did Cora specifically see Price impacted by the injury?

"We saw it with command and that's not him. He can get hit, that's part of it. But with command, he was way off," Cora said. "He didn't have that two-seamer in the whole season and that's a pitch that, throughout his career, he always aced it. That's a pitch, a put-away pitch against right-handed hitters, and he didn't have it. We'll talk about it. We'll see what we're going to do. Obviously, everything that can benefit him will be great for the organization."

As for Betts, he was out of Tuesday's lineup for the third straight game. The star outfielder had an MRI on Monday that revealed the inflammation but not a significant injury.

"Just got to give it a little time to get out of there," said Betts. "I don't think it was one incident. I don't remember diving or falling or anything in particular. It's kind of weird how it happened, but it did."

Cora said that if Betts returns for the four-game series in Tropicana Field that starts Friday, he will serve as the DH due to the turf.

Chavis, Hembree close to returns

At one point, it looked like rookie Michael Chavis might miss the rest of the season due to the left oblique injury he suffered during a Minor League rehab assignment.

But the right-handed hitter, whose original injury (an AC joint in his left shoulder) put him on the injured list on Aug. 12, could return this weekend.

"He's hitting off the machine. He hit BP in the cage. If everything goes well he might be active over the weekend," said Cora.

Reliever Heath Hembree, who has spent two stints on the injured list due to right elbow woes, is still in play to pitch again before the season is over.

"Heath threw a bullpen today. Next step is a simulated game and hopefully he'll be active for the Texas series [next week]," Cora said.

*** ESPN.com**

Mike Yaz: Homer in Fenway debut 'super special'

Joon Lee

Tuesday night, San Francisco Giants outfielder Mike Yastrzemski accomplished something his Hall of Fame grandfather never did.

He got the crowd at Fenway Park to give a standing ovation after a home run by an opposing player.

In his first game at the ballpark his grandfather called home for 23 years, Yastrzemski homered in the top of the fourth inning of Tuesday's game against the Boston Red Sox in a moment that couldn't have been scripted better. The solo shot was the 238th home run by a Yastrzemski at Fenway Park and the first since Carl Yastrzemski went deep against Moose Haas of the Milwaukee Brewers on July 31, 1983.

"Being able to do that in front of friends and family was super special," Yastrzemski said after the game. "I'm just glad that they got to make it for it."

Yastrzemski, 29, finished 2-for-7 in the Giants' 7-6 win in 15 innings. The solo shot was his 20th homer of the season.

"I couldn't be happier for him, and the year as a whole," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said after the game. "Getting called up here and playing the type of ball he is, having a chance to come here to Boston and play left field where his grandfather did and hit a home run in the first game, it's hard to script out any better than what happened tonight for him."

It didn't take long for Mike to feel the history as he walked into Fenway Park before Tuesday's game. The memories all came rolling back. As a kid who grew up in the Boston area rooting for the home team, absent of the fact that his grandfather was a city icon, the younger Yaz thought back to all of the games he attended at Fenway growing up -- from the 1999 Home Run Derby to the World Series runs in 2004 and 2007.

He thought about all the times he'd spent with his family at Fenway Park, where the Red Sox retired his grandfather's No. 8 back in 1989.

"Playing here is cool, and I see it as part of my job and something I've always wanted to do. That doesn't really overwhelm me," the younger Yastrzemski told the media before Tuesday's game. "To do it in a setting where I have so many fond memories with friends and family and have them be able to be here, it's special."

Yastrzemski received a nice round of applause from the Fenway crowd when his name was announced. He struck out swinging in his first at-bat and drew a walk in his second at-bat, scoring San Francisco's first run of the game on a Stephen Vogt double.

The Yastrzemski family doesn't usually gather in the season, but the series in Boston will be the exception. The elder Yastrzemski, who rarely appears at Fenway Park save for a first pitch before a World Series game, met with his grandson on the field before Tuesday's game, giving Mike tips on playing the Green Monster. He told the Boston Globe on Monday that he planned to do a television interview with his grandson prior to Tuesday's game but would leave afterward to watch on TV.

"We've got everything planned for Wednesday," Carl said about the family's plans for Fenway. "We thought about going in on Tuesday but decided against it. He's going to have enough people bothering him, and it might be a little easier on him if I'm not there watching him."

In an interview with NESN on Tuesday, Carl said the best way he can describe the magnitude of this moment is to compare it to the season he was named American League MVP and led the Red Sox to a World Series appearance against the Cardinals.

"The only way I can make any type of comparison would be to compare the '67 season to this moment," he said. "To play 700 games in the minor leagues, he always said he'd make it. I think that's what I'm proud of the most, because of his sticking to it, not complaining. He's a great kid, which is more important."

Bochy, a 14-year veteran manager, decided to play into the moment, putting Mike in the leadoff spot manning the same left field as his grandfather.

"To be honest, sure, I wanted him to play left field tonight. He gets the nod there. It'll be a cool moment," Bochy said in a pregame interview. "I'm sure for a lot of people here, it'll be a great reminder of all the great things his grandfather did, bringing special memories into their minds. I look forward to it. I had a chance to meet Carl today and he came into the clubhouse and we sat and talked for a while, and so this is cool for everybody. The fans here in Boston, but us, too."

"It will be the first time since 1983 that the name 'Yastrzemski' will be announced," Carl, now 80, said. "It's definitely going to be emotional. To see him come into Fenway Park where I played for 23 years, to have his name announced, that will be a great thrill for me."

The younger Yastrzemski grew up a huge Red Sox fan, citing Trot Nixon, Pedro Martinez, Nomar Garciaparra and Manny Ramirez among his favorite players. Mike admitted that it wasn't until high school, turning 15 years old, when he began to realize everything his grandfather accomplished in his hometown.

"When I turned 23, that was the big shocking moment, was that for my entire life he has showed up to Fenway Park every day," Yastrzemski said. "That blew my mind. I can't picture 23 years' worth of Major League Baseball experience. That's when that really set in."

Yastrzemski will have more than 150 family and friends attending the series, including friends from his alma mater, St. John's Prep in Danvers, Massachusetts. While Tuesday represents a dream come true, it's been a long path for Mike, who spent six years in the Baltimore Orioles' minor league system before getting his opportunity in San Francisco this year, where he's hitting .265/.324/.509 with 19 homers. His slow climb to the majors has helped him appreciate this moment a little bit more.

"Through the long path it took me to get here, I started to understand which things are important and which aren't so I could stay focused on the things that have really grown to matter and the story that needs to unfold here," Yastrzemski said. "It's special for my family and my grandfather as opposed to keeping it on me."

Before that moment came, when Mike Yastrzemski heard his name for the first time over the Fenway speakers, more than 58 years after his grandfather played his first game in Boston, he'd hoped, talking to the media before the game, to take a moment to appreciate everything it took to get to this moment.

"That's the one thing I'm unsure of how it'll affect me. Everything else I've got a good grasp on. Hearing that will probably be emotional, but that's probably the moment that I need to allow myself to enjoy and take my time and say 'this is special,'" Yastrzemski said. "This isn't just special for me. This is special for anyone who saw my grandfather play and saw the Red Sox play over history. They have some tie to him because of his historic value to the organization. While it is special for me, I need to let it be special for everybody else as well."

With a moment to breathe and reflect after Tuesday night's game, young Yaz was left short for words.

"The crowd reaction all night was incredible," Yastrzemski said. "I can't thank them enough for being supportive and just showing me some love when I'm on the opposing team. It's unheard of and it was really special."

* **WEEI.com**

Latest news a reminder that Red Sox starting rotation's story has been a nightmare

Rob Bradford

Let's put everything on pause and realize where things have landed.

After just about 1 a.m. Wednesday Alex Cora announced that David Price's 2019 season was likely done thanks to the persisting cyst on the pitcher's left wrist.

"Most likely we're going to get together again just to go over a few things and see where we're heading, but honestly, it feels like most likely we're going to shut him down, but we have to go through the whole process and see how David feels about it and obviously the medical staff," Cora said. "Most likely we'll make a final decision (Wednesday)."

If that is it for Price his 2019 will look like this: 7-5 with a 4.28 ERA in 107 1/3 innings. That, my friends, would be the second-best story on this starting staff.

About five hours before Cora's news related to Price Nathan Eovaldi was adding another uncomfortable piece to the starting pitching puzzle.

Eovaldi allowed five runs on seven hits over four innings. It was his 10th start of the season, with the righty's ERA sitting at 6.44 in those appearances (just one of which has gone beyond five innings).

"He's been starting for a while now," Cora said. "I do feel that there were a lot of hits down in the zone. The first home run was a pitch down. Crawford got two hits down in the zone. Even the home run was a pitch down in the zone. Last year we talked about it: This guy, with his stuff, we need him. We have to get him to pitch up in the zone again. He can get some swings and misses up there, some weak contact. From there, we can expand down with the breaking ball and the split. But I remember last year, there were some starts in August – against Baltimore, the White Sox, even the Braves, in that period of time, everything was down, down, down. When he's dominating, when he got here last year against the Twins, he was up. Against the Yankees, the eight innings, it was up in the zone. Against the Dodgers in the playoffs it was up in the zone. We have to do that. We live in an era that if you pitch on plane, the guys are going to catch up regardless of whether you're throwing 100 or 91 (mph). There's a lot of foul balls, too. That's part of the mix. There's nothing we can do with that. But we'll get it right, we'll finish on a positive note, and he'll be ready for the offseason to work on the things that he has to work, and he's a guy that is very important for us in the coming years."

Chris Sale? He is down in Fort Myers, Fla. attempting to decipher his course of action after that season-ending elbow injury. (He will meet up with the team in St. Petersburg, Fla. this weekend.)

Rick Porcello wasn't at the park either Monday night due to a stomach virus, but does figure to have a couple of more starts left in his 2019 season.

At least there is Eduardo Rodriguez.

But take away Rodriguez's breakout season and what the Red Sox are left with in terms of starting pitching results is striking.

In games started by what was perceived to be the Top 4 of this rotation -- Sale, Price, Eovaldi and Porcello -- the Red Sox have gone 43-44. Their combined ERA is 5.05. That group also made up \$81.5 million of the team's payroll this season. To say this isn't how the Red Sox drew it up would be the understatement of the last three centuries.

Want to have a successful season, you can't have this happen. The records turned in by the starters for the Astros (71-36), the A's (64-34), Twins (62-38), Indians (59-47) and Yankees (57-36) are proof of that.

Welcome to the Red Sox' long, slow, painful 2019 in a nutshell

Rob Bradford

The night started out with as much of a spring in its step as could be possible considering the circumstances.

With less than two weeks left in both their seasons, the Red Sox and Giants showed up at Fenway Park Tuesday night and participated what was an entertaining baseball game for a while. There was the novelty of the National League fans swarming Jersey St. And the grandson of a Red Sox legend, Mike Yastrzemski, not only offered a cool pregame meet-and-greet with his grandfather Captain Carl but punctuated the moment with the first Yastrzemski home run at Fenway since July 31, 1983.

And there was also a Red Sox' comeback after starter Nathan Eovaldi had dug his team a 5-1 hole.

But when it was all said and done -- 5 hours and 54 minutes after it started -- the Red Sox were left with just another reminder of the not-quite-good-enough 2019 season, in this case it was a 7-6, 15-inning loss to the Giants. (For a complete recap, [click here](#).)

"If you can (sum up) our season in six hours, it was right there, honestly," said Red Sox manager Alex Cora after his team tied a big league record with its 16th game of four hours or more. "Close games, we didn't hit with men in scoring position, we didn't pitch well in the beginning but then we pitched well. We played good defense but then we didn't. Honestly, if you want to put everything in six hours, it's right there. I was watching, I was like, long game, extra-inning games, using the bullpen knowing we have a bullpen day maybe tomorrow, it's been like that the whole season. That's how I felt."

We know this: Next year we won't see this. The rules won't allow it. Major League Baseball is allowing rosters to expand to just 28 players during September next year, eliminating the chance for teams to use a record-tying 24 pitchers, as was the case this time around.

But the interminable amount of pitching changes were just part of the problem when it came to those Red Sox followers hoping to turn those Giants' fans smiles upside down. As exhausting as it is to utter, this wouldn't have happened in 2019.

Sure, the Red Sox might have played a long game. But when it was all said and done the story of using 10 relievers along with the gut and guile it took to keep things going with a run thanks to a 13th-inning, bases-loaded walk by Juan Centeno would have paved the way to a nice little story for Cora's club.

Instead, the Sox woke up Wednesday still nine games out of the Wild Card race sitting with 40 home losses, just nine shy of the 69-win seasons of 2012 and 2014.

Welcome to 2019.

*** *NBC Sports Boston***

Red Sox rotation hasn't even hit rock bottom, which portends disaster in 2020

John Tomase

The Red Sox have devoted more than \$400 million to the top three pitchers in their rotation.

Whoever takes over as GM this winter will be lucky to find \$10 million for their replacements.

Tuesday highlighted what kind of challenge awaits the baseball operations department. Before an endless 7-6 loss to the Giants in 15 innings, manager Alex Cora revealed that left-hander David Price (\$217 million) might need offseason surgery to address a cyst on his left wrist. He also noted that fellow southpaw Chris Sale (\$145 million) remains in Fort Myers and isn't yet due for a follow-up with Dr. James Andrews to ascertain the state of his troublesome elbow, though he'll meet the team in Tampa this weekend.

Once the game started, right-hander Nathan Eovaldi (\$68 million) allowed five runs on seven hits, including a pair of homers, in only four innings. His ERA rose to 6.19 and the best he could say was that he had made a memory for Mike Yastrzemski, serving up a mammoth homer to straightaway center for the grandson of Yaz.

It's hard to overstate just how dire an issue the rotation is setting up to be next season. The Red Sox are stuck in a position where their current starters are immovable from a salary standpoint and unreliable from a physical one.

The team must count on them to deliver while also planning for the eventuality that anywhere from one to three of them probably won't.

To quote the great Dennis Eckersley: "Yuck."

When we talk about Dave Dombrowski leaving the Red Sox in a hole, what we're really talking about is the rotation. The offense will be stacked even if J.D. Martinez or Mookie Betts depart this winter. (Losing both would be a different story...) The starting rotation, however, is shaping up like one giant cinderblock that's about to drag down the entire roster.

So what can the Red Sox do? The prospect of replacing any one of the Big Three with an opener every five days is distasteful, and the Red Sox shouldn't subject their fans to it, not with one of the few legitimate big-market payrolls in the game. Leave the openers to the Tampas and Oakland of the world (although they are playoff teams ...). The Red Sox should be able to afford five serviceable starters.

The problem is they might need eight. That means scouring the non-tender wire and the shallow end of the free agency pool to find arms that can basically form a shadow rotation in support of the one that we can only trust with a giant leap of faith.

Any surgery Price might need sounds minor, but once that ball starts rolling...

"That's something we're going to talk about, if that's an option, if we need it," Cora said. "Obviously [the injury] has limited him as far as being able to compete and I think it actually kind of limited him when he was pitching, what he was able to do. We saw it with command and that's not him. He can hit, that's part of it. But with command, he was way off. He didn't have that two-seamer in the whole season and that's a pitch that throughout his career, he always aced it. That's a pitch, a put-away pitch against right-handed hitters and he didn't have it. We'll talk about it. We'll see what we're going to do. Obviously, everything that can benefit from him will be great for the organization."

Eovaldi, meanwhile, remains an enigma. He routinely hit 98 mph on Tuesday, but the Giants knocked him around anyway because he spent too much time down in the strike zone. His ERA ranks in the bottom 15 in baseball and his inability to stay healthy feels like a problem will only intensify as he ages.

"When he's dominating, when he got here last year against the Twins, he was up [in the zone]," Cora said after the game. "Against the Yankees, the eight innings, it was up in the zone. Against the Dodgers, in the playoffs, it was up in the zone. We have to do that. We live in an era that if you pitch on plane, the guys are going to catch up regardless of whether you're throwing 100 or 91. There's a lot of foul balls, too. That's part of the mix. There's nothing we can do with that. But we'll get it right, we'll finish on a positive note,

and he'll be ready for the offseason to work on the things that he has to work, and he's a guy that is very important for us in the coming years."

As for Sale, we still don't know if he needs Tommy John surgery. What we do know is the longer the Red Sox wait to make a decision, the greater the likelihood that he'll miss two seasons instead of one if he goes under the knife.

That's a worst-case scenario, and the fact that Sale has felt well enough to play catch is encouraging, but let's be real: a bad shoulder effectively cost him the final three months of 2018, and a bad elbow shut him down this August.

Two years, two serious injuries. The Red Sox have no idea what to expect from Sale in 2020. The same can be said of Eovaldi. The same can be said of Price.

That's the heart and soul of your rotation. It's a massive percentage of your payroll. It's supposed to be the strength of your team.

That's a terrible place to be.

*** *Bostonsportsjournal.com***

A tradition continues at Fenway as one Yastrzemski follows another

Sean McAdam

Baseball, probably more than any other sport, trades on tradition. It's a game that's often first played — and eventually watched — by father or grandfather and son, passed down like a family heirloom, almost effortlessly linking generations.

Usually, that takes place in a backyard and a living room.

For one New England family Tuesday night, it played out on the lawn at Fenway Park.

Leading off for the San Francisco Giants was Mike Yastrzemski, patrolling the same position — if in a different uniform — as his grandfather Carl did, off-and-on, for 23 seasons of his Hall of Fame career.

On Tuesday afternoon, some five hours before game time, the two walked the patch of grass that connected them, linking them further. A camera crew from the MLB Network recorded it all, but it remained something of a private moment, shared across the years.

Beforehand, Carl, who is not given to showing his emotions or, these days, sharing his thoughts much at all, noted how proud he was of his grandson for having the perseverance to log parts of seven seasons in the minors before making his major league debut earlier this summer.

"He played 700-something games in the minors," marveled Carl, "and always kept telling me that he would make it someday. And it's finally come true for him. He worked hard, never complained."

At 29, Mike will not follow his grandfather to Cooperstown. That's not the career path of someone who has rookie status at this stage of his career. But all those years, all those bus rides, that was never the point.

Mike was never trying to match what his grandfather had done. Asked Tuesday why he kept at it, even when it seemed like he was destined to remain stuck in minor league purgatory with the Baltimore Orioles, he didn't hesitate.

“Love for the game,” he said, “just really enjoying showing up to the ballpark every day and I really had just fun being out on the field.”

All those years in one uniform, his grandfather had that same dedication to his craft, that same sense of professional pride.

It's easy to look at Carl's career numbers — second all-time in games played, fourth in hits — and assume that he was simply preternaturally talented, destined for greatness from the beginning.

But that was never the elder Yastrzemski's story. His career was borne of hard work, and with a somewhat slight build, he was largely self-made. He had the misfortune to follow Ted Williams in left, and three batting titles, an MVP, a Triple Crown and better than 3,400 hits and 400 homers later, never seemed to shake his shadow.

Mostly, Carl worked. He owed his 1967 season to a vigorous winter workout program, becoming one of the first major leaguers to concentrate on offseason workouts and perhaps the first to hire a personal trainer. From then on, the work never stopped. He wasn't above taking early BP in his 40s, and he was forever tinkering with his swing and set-up at the plate, eternally in search of the perfect adjustment.

Mike has followed that path, though on a different level: grinding away in the minors and working to find his swing. Alex Cora noted that he detected a change in Mike's swing this past spring — one flatter and more direct to the ball. After being dealt to the Giants organization, then promoted with a chance to play regularly with a new organization, he's made the most of his opportunity.

It wasn't until the middle of high school that the boy began to understand that the man he knew as his grandfather was also a baseball legend. Later, what struck Mike most was how long his grandfather had done what he had done.

“When I turned 23,” said Mike, “that was the kind of the big shocking moment because I realized for (the length of) my entire life, he had shown up to Fenway Park every day. That kind of blew my mind. I can't picture 23 years worth of major league experience.”

And like his grandfather, Mike has a stoicism to him, careful not to be overwhelmed by the highs or beaten down by the lows. Baseball is a game of failure and it takes an even approach to survive it.

Still, hours before his Fenway debut, Mike allowed that this would be an ordinary game.

“I don't get wrapped up in moments very easily,” he said. “I think I've kind of trained my whole life to block out situations. But I think tonight, I need to take a step back and get lost in maybe one of the moments and let myself appreciate that and experience it. And then we get back to business.”

As if scripted, “one of those moments” took place in the top of the fourth when Mike turned on a 96 mph fastball from Nathan Eovaldi and sent it soaring into the center field bleachers for the first home run at Fenway by a player named Yastrzemski in 36 years.

The San Francisco dugout erupted in joy and most of the Fenway crowd couldn't help but cheer the player with the familiar surname as he trotted around the bases.

And, in that moment, the circle was complete. Even as it skipped a generation, the torch had been passed.

Giants 7, Red Sox 6 (15) – Three things we learned from a long night at Fenway

Sean McAdam

A long (5:54 in time, 15 in innings) night ended poorly for the Red Sox in a 7-6 loss to the San Francisco Giants.

Here are three takeaways:

1. This game managed to symbolize a lot of what went wrong for the Red Sox in the 2019 season

Over the course of nearly six hours, for a game with very little meaning for either team, a manager has plenty of time to think. And what Alex Cora mostly thought was that he had seen a lot of this before. As in all year long. “If you can (encapsulate) our season in six hours, it’s right there, honestly” said Cora. “Close games ... we didn’t hit with men in scoring position. We didn’t pitch well in the beginning, but then we pitched well. We played good defense, but then we didn’t. Using the bullpen, knowing that we have a bullpen game tomorrow. ... Honestly, if you want to put everything in six hours, it’s right there. That’s how it felt.” Cora has a point. The Sox got eight consecutive scoreless innings from their bullpen, but then gave up two runs in the span of the final three innings. They stranded 17 runners for the game and were just 4-for-15 with runners in scoring position. They got a poor start from Nathan Eovaldi, which symbolizes the biggest issue with the team since the beginning of the season. It was all there. But like the season itself, it took a very long time to unfold.

2. Eovaldi not ending on a high note.

Nathan Eovaldi was belted around for five runs on seven hits in just four innings and it seems obvious there isn’t going to be a strong finish from in the closing weeks to take some momentum into the post-season. He continued to be inefficient on the mound, needing 86 pitches to record just 12 outs and he struggled with his command, issuing three walks, two of which led directly to runs scoring. But mostly, he gave up hard contact. “A lot of pitches in the middle of the zone,” said Cora. “I do feel there were a lot of hits (on pitches) down in the zone. This guy with his stuff, we need him, we have to get him to pitch up in the zone again. He can get some swings and misses up there and weak contact and from there, we can get expand down in the zone with the breaking ball and the split. When he’s dominating, he’s up. So we have to do that. If you pitch on that plane, the guys are going to catch up to it.” Eovaldi saw things differently, saying that he needs to throw his splitter more — a pitch down on the zone — to off-set his fastball. “I feel like I was throwing the ball up in the zone a lot today,” he said. “I just have to do a better job mixing off the high fastball and my splitter works well for that.”

3. Red Sox injuries piling up.

The Sox were without Mookie Betts (left foot inflammation) for a third straight game and he likely won’t return until Friday, and then, only as the DH. Then, the list grew during the game. J.D. Martinez came out of the game with tightness in his left groin after two at-bats and likely won’t play Wednesday. Then, the man who replaced him in the lineup as the Red Sox DH, Sam Travis, delivered a leadoff triple in the sixth, but on his way between second and third base, his helmet came flying off. And as he slid head-first into third, wouldn’t you know it, he was hit in the back of the head by the relay throw from a Giants’ infielder. Travis laid motionless for a minute or so, his head down on the bag and for a moment, it seemed he has lost consciousness. But with the training staff attending to him, he got up and was able to walk off the field under his own power. He was placed in concussion protocol and will be re-evaluated Wednesday. Meanwhile, the Sox met with David Price (wrist cyst) shortly before the game and though it’s not official, Cora said postgame that the Sox are “leaning toward” shutting him down for the remainder of the season.

*** *The Athletic***

What a wonderful collision of old-time and new-school baseball as Yaz the younger debuts at Fenway

Steve Buckley

It was a day of handshakes and hugs for Mike Yastrzemski, a day for old-timers in and around Fenway Park to tell the kid about the time they saw his grandfather — the still-steely-eyed-after-all-these-years Carl Yastrzemski — hit a homer, or make a great catch, or jaw it out with an umpire. People forget that while,

yes, Captain Carl was a man of few words, he could say quite a lot when he felt he'd been done bad by an ump.

But Yaz the Younger — the grandson, Mike, a rookie outfielder with the visiting San Francisco Giants — has a talent for being quite chatty and yet, even so, maintaining the famous family reserve. So, yes, of course, he arrived at Fenway Park early Tuesday afternoon and did all the interviews, posed for all the photos, signed all the baseballs, paid the necessary on-camera courtesies to his hometown (Andover), his high school (St. John's Prep), his childhood Red Sox fandom ("I loved watching Pedro, Nomar, Manny, and Trot Nixon was one of my favorite players"), his mother (Anne Marie, who, he said, "has been my No. 1 supporter every step of the way"), his late father (also named Mike Yastrzemski) and, of course, an 80-year-old Hall of Famer named Carl Yastrzemski whom the kid affectionately addresses as "Poppy Yaz."

And then, as if to prove the pomp and circumstance of this who'd-have-thunk-it baseball homecoming did nothing to lessen the pop and sizzle in the kid's bat, Mike Yastrzemski socked a home run. It came in the fourth inning of the Giants' 15-inning, 7-6 victory over the Red Sox, turning an otherwise long, meaningless, senses-dulling, late-season game between two going-nowhere teams into a scrapbook moment for fans of both clubs. Even if by the time this horrible game was over — at 1:06 Wednesday morning, with the two teams having combined to use a record-tying 24 pitchers — the only people remaining in the park were Mike Yastrzemski's old high school buddies.

And yet for Giants fans it was a chance to cheer for a 29-year-old rookie who hit his 20th homer of the season, a shot to center off Boston starter Nathan Eovaldi. He also rifled a double to center in the 14th inning.

For Red Sox fans, it was a chance to see a Yastrzemski hit a home run at Fenway Park, something that hadn't happened since July 31, 1983, when Captain Carl hit a two-run shot off Milwaukee Brewers righthander Moose Haas. Old-timers might note that, hey, Yaz did hit one into the Boston bullpen off the Baltimore Orioles' Jim Palmer on Sept. 12, 1983, but, alas, the game was rained out before it had become official, necessitating that would-be home run No. 453 be stricken from the stat sheet.

In other words, it had been a heck of a long time since a Yaz had gone deep at Fenway, except this was not a good-bye trip around the bases but a welcome-home trotter. And it was the culmination of a thrilling day for a ballplayer who began spring training as a career minor leaguer on the Baltimore Orioles' depth chart and now is ending the season as an everyday outfielder with the Giants.

And if you don't think it was a wonderful and thunderous collision of old-time, pre-high-def hardball and the modern-age, analytics-driven game, consider what happened earlier in the afternoon, when Yaz the Younger and Poppy Yaz were seen wandering around out by the Green Monster.

"It was awesome," Mike said of the much-photographed stroll, the kid dressed in his Giants-orange workout shorts, the codger looking quite comfortable in a pair of baggy chinos. "We had a chance to catch up. I don't normally get to see him until after the season, so that's a bonus."

Watching all this happen — and this was more than four hours before Fenway Park public address announcer Henry Mahegan brought down the house simply by speaking the words, "Leading off for the Giants, the left fielder, No. 5, Mike Yastrzemski" — it reminded me of something that stood out when I interviewed Yaz the Younger last month in Philadelphia.

Mike Yastrzemski is a planner. He's neat, organized, regimented. He gave me all the time I needed as we chatted in a corner of the visiting clubhouse at Citizens Bank Park, but that was after he had done his lifting, stretching and early hitting. Which brings us to a crazy busy Tuesday afternoon that no doubt ripped his daily schedule to shreds.

Asked during his pregame dugout press conference about playing his first big-league game at Fenway and everything leading up to it, Mike provided an answer that absolutely proves that he gets it.

“It’ll be cool,” he said. “I don’t get wrapped up in moments very easily ... I’ve trained my whole life to block out situations and crowd noise and stuff like that, but I think tonight I need to take a step back and get lost in maybe one of the moments and let myself appreciate it and experience it. And then we can get back to business.

“I understand it’s a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing, so I’m taking it in stride and am going to make it work.”

“While it is special for me, I need to let it be special for everybody else as well.”

After the interview, I got a moment with Mike Yastrzemski and asked him how a guy whose baseball life is governed by preparedness could possibly handle all these emotions and distractions yet still perform at a big-league level. His response was taken directly from the Carl Yastrzemski playbook.

“One of the things I learned from my grandfather is that he understood there was relaxation in your environment,” Mike said. “When he got into his comfort zone, which was the baseball field, everything went away. He got to go out there and just be himself and play.”

It’s reminiscent of something Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. said in 1995 as he was closing on Lou Gehrig’s Iron Man streak of playing in 2,130 consecutive games.

The closer Ripken got to the record, the greater the frequency of requests for interviews and appearances and autographs, every moment a special moment, every moment becoming a moment not spent alone.

How did Ripken cope? “When the game begins,” he said, “that’s when I can relax.”

And so it was for Mike Yastrzemski. He did every interview, posed for every photograph, even did the walk in front of the Green Monster with Poppy Yaz, which, while choreographed, was an absolutely awesome moment. He mingled with fans. He had dozens of friends, family members and old high school teammates sitting in the stands, having wisely handed off the ticket requests to a cousin who volunteered to do the bookkeeping.

And then, at 7:12 p.m., after Lowell native Marcela Cruz performed a darned good rendition of the national anthem, and after Henry Mahegan made the announcement, Mike Yastrzemski stepped up to the plate to face Nathan Eovaldi.

At this point he was channeling his inner Carl Yastrzemski, finding relaxation in his environment. He was in his comfort zone. He was also the first Yastrzemski to bat at Fenway Park in a big-league game since Oct. 2, 1983, when Poppy Yaz ended his brilliant big-league career by swinging at 3-0 Dan Spillner pitch up by his eyeballs and popping out to Indians second baseman Jack Perconte. He swung at the bad pitch that day for no other reason than because no way was Yaz going to end his career by walking to first base.

On Tuesday night, Sept. 17, 2019, top of the first inning, Mike Yastrzemski stuck out. It had been a long, long time between Yaz-induced buzzkills.

But to repeat: There is relaxation in this environment, this baseball environment, this comfort zone. And so in his next plate appearance, the kid they call Yaz walked. And then came the fourth inning and the home run, which means that Sox fans young and old can now say they saw Yaz hit one out at Fenway.

During the Tuesday afternoon media availability, it should be noted, Yaz the Younger was asked the obligatory question about whether he’d like to play for the hometown nine. He’d have answered that one with pie plate-sized eyes if he were 18 years old and still playing for Coach Pat Yanchus at St. John’s Prep, but he is 29 now, wise to the ways of professional baseball, and so he said, rather matter of factly, “Once you get older and you understand the industry of baseball a little bit more you become less of a fan of teams and more a fan of just the game. That’s one of the things that’s kept me going, being a fan of the game. Being able to experience the big leagues on any team is all that I’ve ever looked for.”

Good for him. And I hope he never plays for the Red Sox. As a member of the visiting San Francisco Giants, these Mike Yastrzemski-Carl Yastrzemski comparisons are fun, nostalgic, educational. But on an everyday basis — “His grandfather woulda made that catch!” — they’d be unbearable.

Mike Yastrzemski has found a home in the Bay Area, and he’s quite popular out there. So here’s hoping the hits keep on coming, as does the applause. After gutting out parts of seven seasons in the minors, he deserves it.

*** *The New York Times***

The Clock Turns Back to 1983 as a Yastrzemski Homers at Fenway

Tyler Kepner

Forty-four years ago, Carl Yastrzemski ended one of the most electrifying World Series in baseball history with a fly out to center field at Fenway Park. A little higher and farther, and Yastrzemski would have tied Game 7 with the Cincinnati Reds. He never returned to the World Series.

The year the Red Sox finally won it, 2004, was painful for Yastrzemski: His only son, Mike, a former minor leaguer, died that September of a heart attack after hip surgery. Only 43 years old, he had left behind a son, also named Mike.

On Tuesday, Mike Yastrzemski did something his father never could, and that his grandfather desperately wanted to do on that October night in 1975. He played a major league game at Fenway and hit a home run into the center field bleachers.

“I just had to take a second and understand what was going on and appreciate that moment and not take it for granted,” said Yastrzemski, who later added a double. “So I made sure to kind of keep my head up and look around and just soak it all in.”

The fans applauded politely but did not give Yastrzemski, 29, a curtain call. He plays for the San Francisco Giants, after all, and they would beat the Red Sox, 7-6, in 15 innings. But even in this record-breaking season for homers in Major League Baseball, the blast — on a 96-mile-an-hour fastball from Nathan Eovaldi — resonated. It was the first by a Yastrzemski in Boston since 1983.

That was the last of Carl Yastrzemski’s 23 seasons, all for Boston. Nobody has ever played as many games for one franchise as Yastrzemski did for the Red Sox — 3,308. By the time he was 29 — Mike’s age now — Carl had played more than 1,200 games. He was closing in on his third batting title and a place in the Hall of Fame.

“When I turned 23, that was kind of the big, shocking moment — that for my entire life he had shown up at Fenway Park every day,” Mike Yastrzemski said. “That kind of blew my mind — I can’t picture 23 years’ worth of Major League Baseball experience. That’s when that really set in, when I started to see the magnitude of his effect on this city.”

Grandfather and grandson roamed left field on Tuesday afternoon, in the shadow of the Green Monster, where Carl spent so many summers and Mike patrolled for the first time in the majors on Tuesday. Carl visited the Giants’ clubhouse, too, but planned to leave Fenway before the game to watch at home.

Yastrzemski almost never sees games in person, even when he throws a ceremonial first pitch at the World Series. But he stays up late to watch every Giants broadcast, he said, and he does plan to be here on Wednesday.

“The only way I can compare it to anything would be if I compare it to the ’67 season,” he said of seeing his grandson at Fenway. “That’s what it means to me, him being here.”

That is quite a statement: The 1967 season cemented Yastrzemski as a superstar. He won the American League Triple Crown and led the “Impossible Dream” Red Sox to the World Series, reviving the baseball passion of this region.

It captivated a young fan from Wolfeboro, N.H., named Tim Corbin, who eventually became the baseball coach at Vanderbilt. As he recruited Mike Yastrzemski — who played in high school at St. John’s Prep in Danvers, Mass. — Corbin could not shake the echoes of his childhood idol.

“When I looked at Mike, I was trying to evaluate him as if he was Mike Smith, just take away the last name,” Corbin said. “But there was a lot of him that I saw and said, ‘That’s his grandfather.’ He’s got his grandfather’s edge. That’s a Yastrzemski fire; he has that in him.”

In 2011, the young Yastrzemski helped lead the Commodores to their first trip to Omaha for the College World Series. He turned down a \$300,000 offer from the Seattle Mariners after his junior year, fulfilling a pledge to his late father to earn his college degree. He did so the next year — majoring in crime in society — and joined the Baltimore Orioles as a 14th-round draft choice.

For six years, Yastrzemski languished in their farm system, playing in major league spring training games but never the real thing. Traded in March to the Giants, he found his power in the minors and earned a promotion in May. He is hitting .266 and is the first Giants rookie with 20 homers since Dave Kingman in 1972.

“Those pitches where he’s doing damage now, before he was just trying to hit liners in the gap or make solid contact,” said Giants pitcher Tyler Beede, who roomed with Yastrzemski at Vanderbilt. “Now he’s trying to actually do damage and drive the ball out of the ballpark. I’m sure he’s adapted his swing and tried to add a little launch angle to it, too.”

“But I tell you what, he’s also one of the most sound defenders you’ll ever see. There will be fly balls hit to him and I know it’s going to be a difficult play, but sometimes I don’t even turn around, because I know he’s going to catch it.”

Yastrzemski has started at all three outfield spots, but there was no question where Manager Bruce Bochy would put him on Tuesday. Bochy said Yastrzemski had impressed him in all areas — defense, base running, power — and Corbin, who has 15 former players in the majors this season, called him one of the best leaders he had ever coached.

The major leagues, he said, is where Yastrzemski belongs.

“I felt like if he got up there, he’s going to stay,” Corbin said. “He’s too good in the clubhouse, he’s too good on the field, and he treats every day the same way. He will never, ever, ever lose his innocence.” No matter how the rest of his story unfolds, the purity of Yastrzemski’s moment on Tuesday — a grandson trotting in royal family footsteps — will be an indelible memory on the sparkling green of old Fenway.

*** *The USA Today***

Mike Yastrzemski, grandson of Red Sox legend Carl Yastrzemski, homers at Fenway Park

Jace Evans

San Francisco Giants rookie Mike Yastrzemski made an emotional return to his home state of Massachusetts on Tuesday, playing his first MLB game at Boston's Fenway Park. The name should be familiar to you: Yastrzemski is the grandson of Red Sox legend Carl Yastrzemski.

In the top of the fourth inning, Mike Yastrzemski authored a special moment his family and friends will never forget.

With the Giants leading 4-1, Yastrzemski launched a home run to straightaway center field at Fenway, where his grandfather hit 237 home runs in his Hall of Fame career. It was the 20th homer of the season for the 29-year-old.

Yastrzemski actually received a standing ovation prior to his first at-bat in the third inning by a Boston crowd surely showing their appreciation for the family of "Yaz," who is on the short list for greatest players to ever suit up for the Red Sox.

"The crowd reactions all night were incredible," Mike told reporters after the game. "I can't thank them enough for being supportive and showing me some love when I'm on the opposing team. It's unheard of, and it was really special."

Carl Yastrzemski played 23 seasons for the Red Sox from 1961-83. He was an 18-time All-Star who won the 1967 MVP, when he hit for baseball's "Triple Crown." He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1989, the year before his grandson was born.

"It had to be a great night for a lot of Red Sox fans to see a Yastrzemski out there," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "I'm sure it reminded them of some of the great memories they have. It was pretty cool."

For Mike Yastrzemski, it was an incredible moment to cap a breakthrough year. He made his first big league appearance in May after bouncing around the minor leagues after getting drafted by the Baltimore Orioles in 2013 following his college baseball career at Vanderbilt.

"I got to walk in here by myself when I got to the field," he said. "There was a lot of memories of being in the stands. Being in the stands for the World Series, being in the stands for the '99 Home Run Derby, the All-Star Game, being with family at games. Those things overwhelm you more than actually playing here."

The Giants went on to a 7-6 win in 15 innings.

*** *The San Francisco Chronicle***

Giants' Yastrzemski hits home run in grandpa's ballpark

Douglas Zimmerman

Carl Yastrzemski hit 237 home runs at Fenway Park. Now his grandson Mike has one as well.

In his first game at the home of the Boston Red Sox, where his Hall of Fame grandfather played his entire 23-year career, Mike Yastrzemski hit a fastball into the center field bleachers in the fourth inning.

Sox fans gave the younger Yaz a standing ovation after the blast which, at the time, gave the Giants a 5-1 lead over Boston.

Mike Yastrzemski has been a revelation this year in another losing season for San Francisco. After playing over 700 minor-league games in the Baltimore Orioles organization, the Giants acquired him in a trade before the season started. After being called up in late May, Yaz has batted .266 with 20 home runs and 51 RBIs in 97 games.

He still has a ways to go to match the stats of his grandfather, who played 3,308 games (most ever for one team), batting .285 with 3,419 hits, 452 home runs, and 1,844 RBIs.

Yaz, who grew up in nearby Andover, Mass., was able to get his big hit in front of friends and family members. His grandpa, Carl, met up with Mike and walked the field with him before the game. He watched the game at home: Carl confessed he would have more butterflies about the game than his grandson.

"I was just excited being able to do that before friends and family," Mike Yastrzemski said after the game. "The crowd reactions, all night, were incredible. I can't thank them enough for being supportive."

It seemed that neither team wanted the night to end. The Sox came back to tie the game sending it into extra innings. San Francisco eventually pulled out the victory, their first-ever at Fenway Park, in the 15th inning 7-6.

*** *Associated Press***

Yaz's grandson Mike hits HR; Giants beat Red Sox 7-6 in 15

Mike Yastrzemski rounded the bases to the cheers of the Fenway Park fans after hitting a solo homer for San Francisco -- like his grandfather heard numerous times during his illustrious career with the Red Sox.

The 29-year-old grandson of Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski hit his homer in his first game in Fenway, and Alex Dickerson had a pinch-hit sacrifice fly in the 15th inning to lift the Giants to a 7-6 victory over Boston on Tuesday night.

Brandon Belt also had a solo homer for the Giants, who posted their first victory in Fenway after going 0-5 in interleague play. The New York Giants beat the Red Sox twice in the 1912 World Series, the year Fenway opened. They also defeated the Boston Braves in Fenway during the 1914 and '15 seasons.

"I was just excited being able to do that before friends and family," Mike Yastrzemski said. "The crowd reactions, all night, were incredible. I can't thank them enough for being supportive."

The game featured a major-league record-tying 24 pitchers -- including a team-record 13 by the Giants -- and had 50 players overall, lasting 5 hours, 54 minutes. "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" was played in the middle of the 14th inning.

"I wanted to get my 10,000 steps in," Bochy joked of the changes. "I was a little behind."

The Giants' pitchers threw 294 pitches to Boston's 253.

Bochy, who is retiring at the end of the season, moved one win away from becoming the 11th big-league manager to reach 2,000 victories.

Donovan Solano opened the 15th with a ground-rule double against Trevor Kelley (0-2) and advanced on a wild pitch before the Dickerson's sac fly.

Dickerson (oblique) was not in the starting lineup. Bochy said before the game that he'd likely be in Wednesday, and, he was, pinch hitting at 12:50 a.m.

"I don't know if I can play him in a doubleheader," Bochy said, smiling.

Dereck Rodriguez (6-9) worked two innings for the victory.

Brandon Crawford's RBI double had given the Giants the lead in the 13th before Boston's pinch hitter Juan Centeno drew a bases-loaded walk off Kyle Barraclough, the Giants' fourth pitcher of the inning.

Yastrzemski hit a 95.8 mph fastball from Nathan Eovaldi into the center-field bleachers for his 20th of the season, getting a nice ovation -- many standing -- as he circled the bases when his shot made it 5-1 in the fourth. He finished 2 for 7 with a double, walk and three strikeouts.

"It's a special moment," Bochy said of the homer. "A lot of attention with him coming here. . Number 20, that's quite the night for the kid."

His teammates were excited in the dugout.

"I was so happy for him," Giants starting pitcher Logan Webb said.

Jackie Bradley Jr. hit a solo homer and drove in two runs for the Red Sox.

Even Eovaldi could appreciate the moment for the younger Yaz.

"Yeah, it's cool," he said. "And I mean you see our fans, too, they give him a really good welcome. Cool experience."

The Yastrzemskis walked Fenway's outfield grass before the game and Mike played left field, where his grandfather shined and captured seven Gold Gloves during his 23-year career, all with the Red Sox.

Carl, who turned 80 in August, retired in 1983 after collecting 3,419 hits, including 452 homers and over 1,800 RBI. In 1967, he won the AL MVP when he captured the Triple Crown. He was inducted into the Hall in 1989 and the Red Sox dedicated a statue of him outside the right-field entrance in 2013.

STAR STRUCK

Bochy said it was an honor to meet Carl Yastrzemski before the game.

"I'm with a Hall of Famer that I grew up trying to impersonate as a hitter as a kid, and there he was in my office," he said. "That's a cool moment. I'm like anybody that grew up idolizing these guys when you have a chance to meet him."

GLOVE WORK

Boston's Marco Hernandez saved a run with diving stop on Donovan Solano's grounder in the 10th and CF Brady made a leaping grab on Belt's drive in the 12th.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Giants: Bochy said C Buster Posey "could use a day" because of tightness in back and hip area.

Red Sox: Manager Alex Cora said LHP David Price (cyst left wrist) could undergo surgery for it during the offseason. "That's something we're going to talk about," Cora said. Price hasn't pitched since Sept. 1. ... OF Mookie Betts missed his third straight game with inflammation in his left foot. ... J.D. Martinez was removed was left groin tightness and Sam Travis left after getting hit in the head -- after his helmet popped off -- by a throw on a headfirst slide into third on his triple.

UP NEXT

RHP Jeff Samardzija (10-12, 3.72 ERA) is set to start Wednesday for the Giants. RHP Jhoulys Chacin (3-10, 5.44) is slated to go for the Red Sox.